

Coalition averts renewed debate on 'Who Is a Jew' bill

By ASHER WALLFISH and SARAH HONIG
Jerusalem Post Reporters

The amendment to the Law of Return, continuously dubbed the "Who's a Jew" law, is not expected to come before the Knesset today.

The coalition executive yesterday evening made it clear that Avraham Shapira (Agudat Israel) and Avner Shaki (National Religious Party) were not entitled to present the amendments stipulating that a Jew is one born of a Jewish mother or converted according to halacha (Jewish law).

The coalition executive, at a meeting with representatives of the two Orthodox parties, pointed out that the proposed amendment had not been approved by Prime Minister Shamir and Vice Premier Peres as required by the coalition agreement.

Throughout the day yesterday NRP MKs met with leaders of both major parties to see whether they

could secure a majority for the amendment. Peres told the MKs that there was no chance Labour would lift party discipline for the vote on the amendment.

The NRP and other religious parties maintain that a group of traditionalist MKs in Labour would vote for the amendment if they were not prevented from doing so by party discipline. The religious parties claim that these Labour MKs could give the amendment a slender majority.

But Peres explained that this was a matter of principle for Labour, and that the party electoral platform, as well as numerous decisions by its central committee and political bureau, obliged it to prevent the adoption of the amendment. Only MK Rabbi Menahem Hacohen was not bound by party discipline on religious matters, since he was head of the Religious Workers' Faction.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 4)

Hammer seen leading revolt with proposal for joint religious court

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Religious Affairs Minister Zevulun Hammer yesterday went public with a proposal to establish joint rabbinical courts abroad, with the participation of non-Orthodox rabbis. Observers see his stand as the spearhead of a revolt by modern Orthodox against what they see as growing ultra-Orthodox extremism.

The proposal is not a new one, but until now it has foundered on the refusal of the Orthodox rabbinate to recognize the credentials of Conservative and Reform rabbis. Hammer himself broached the subject recently in talks with leaders of the two non-Orthodox movements, but was hesitant about going public with it, for fear of the reaction, even within his own movement.

Hammer intentionally kept his proposal low-key. He said it would be a "halachically oriented" body which would certify or reconvert, if necessary, converts wishing to immigrate to Israel. The members of the court would be "widely accepted" figures from all streams of Judaism.

In making his proposal, Hammer noted that the number of "problematic" converts coming to Israel was quite small. But the court would also serve other converts who wished to make their Jewish credentials halachically authentic.

The proposal, which could result in a split between the Zionist, modern Orthodox, National Religious camp and their ultra-Orthodox colleagues, has so far received only limited support. One of the few Orthodox rabbis to back it so far is MK Menahem Hacohen of the Alignment.

If it were adopted by the NRP, the proposal would put paid to the coalition that has been maintained between the NRP and the ultra-Orthodox Shas and Agudat Yisrael parties, which have both proposed outlawing non-Orthodox conversions in Israel.

Agudat Yisrael is pressing for a change in the Law of Return, which would alter the definition of a Jew from "anyone born of a Jewish mother or converted to Judaism," to "converted to Judaism according to halacha." An identical bill was only recently defeated by the Knesset.

Shas is pressing for the passage of the "Rabbinical Courts Law," which would make local rabbinical courts the final arbiters over any rulings by a rabbinical body abroad.

At a press conference yesterday, which was attended by leaders of the local Reform and Conservative movements, Rabbi Pinchas Spectre, director of the Israel Masorti (Conservative) movement, warned that passage of the Rabbinical Courts Law would invalidate not only Conservative and Reform conversions, but also their marriages and divorces.

The speakers, who warmly welcomed Hammer's proposal for a joint rabbinical court, said they would gladly enter negotiations for the establishment of such a court. The question whether all the rabbis of their movements would abide by the decisions of such a court would be one of the issues to be negotiated, Spectre said.

Rabbi Richard Hirsch, director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, pointed out that the proposal for a joint rabbinical court had the support of Orthodox rabbis abroad, including Rabbi Milton Polin, president of the Rabbinical Council of America.



Greek Orthodox priests await the arrival of their patriarch, Diodorus I, at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity yesterday, when the Greek Orthodox, Assyrian and Coptic Churches celebrated Christmas.

(G. Feinblatt, Media)

O'Connor 'clarifies' in Rome

By LISA PALMIERI-BILLIG
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

ROME. "Far from having created a 'diplomatic mess,' as an anonymous high-ranking Vatican official is reported to have termed my visit to Israel," said Cardinal John O'Connor, at a press conference in Rome yesterday, "I believe that, on the contrary, I helped clarify issues impeding diplomatic recognition of Israel."

"The Holy See has continuously made it clear that it recognizes and respects the sovereignty of Israel in *de facto* fashion," the New York archbishop said.

"I don't consider myself a diplomat," he continued, "but due to a

strange twist in circumstances, I was able to understand the three reasons why there are no diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel:

"(1) Differing opinions regarding Jerusalem. On this issue, *The Jerusalem Post* erroneously spoke of the 'internationalization' of the city. What the Vatican requests is not internationalization, but a special statute guaranteed internationally."

"(2) A homeland for the Palestinian people must be found somehow, using the formula of self-determination."

"(3) Protection for Christian minorities in the Middle East must be assured."

Peres to study U.S. ideas on Lavi fighter

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Americans are not trying to force Israel's hand on the issue of the Lavi fighter aircraft. Vice Premier Peres said yesterday after meeting with U.S. Assistant Under Secretary of Defense Dov Zakheim.

"The American delegation provided me with much material, which I must study," Peres said. "Nevertheless, at this stage I remain firm in my belief that we must go ahead with the Lavi in its present form."

The material Zakheim presented to Peres relates to the five basic alternatives proposed by the U.S. in place of the multi-billion fighter project.

Zakheim praised Israel's collaboration during the talks. "My feeling is that the discussions have been very good. We worked very closely with Israel on this. People need to understand that this effort would not have been possible without Israel's help," he said.

The Pentagon official is due to meet today with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and will hold a press conference later in the afternoon.

During the meeting with Peres, Zakheim said he had been impressed by the Lavi's maiden flight, but this had not changed his opinion on the issue.

Last night Zakheim met with Finance Minister Moshe Nissim and Treasury heads, briefing them in detail on the alternatives.

The Treasury spokesman refused to elaborate on the talks, but it was evident that the Treasury was more receptive to Zakheim's ideas than the Defence and Foreign Ministries.

Asher Wallfish adds:

Chief of General Staff Rav-Aluf Moshe Levy said yesterday that he had been involved in the initial decision-making on the building of the Lavi, he would not have recommended that the fighter aircraft be built.

"The IDF could have managed without the Lavi," Levy told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

But now that the aircraft has reached such an advanced stage, construction should continue, Levy said, stressing that the Lavi was "a major national project."

"If we're going to do it, let's do it in style," Levy said. "The Israel Air Force needs a good plane. The problem is, of course, that we cannot build the Lavi unless the United States goes along with it."

Can the SLA continue to hold?

Cracks have recently begun to appear in the armour of the South Lebanese Army. Last month, there were reports of mass defections from Gen. Antoine Lahad's forces, mainly from the Shi'ite elements in Southern Lebanon. These were soon followed by reports of difficulties the SLA was having in attracting new recruits, despite the offer of higher pay.

This past week has seen determined and successful attacks on SLA positions by Shi'ites from the north of the security zone. There were scores of SLA casualties, and three Israeli-supplied armoured personnel carriers were taken as booty by the attackers. Though the attacks have been attributed to Hizbullah, Shi'ite fundamentalists, military analysts do not rule out wider Shi'ite participation — especially in the provision of logistics, cover and local intelligence to the attackers.

Inherent in the new situation is the danger of creeping Israeli reinvolution in Southern Lebanon. The attacks on the SLA, if they continue, which most observers believe will be the case, will serve to further undermine an already demoralized SLA. This is something that Israel, which has invested heavily in Lahad, cannot permit to happen.

Even more worrying for Israeli defence planners is that the weakness of the SLA and the growing belligerence of the Shi'ite community in the south are occurring simultaneously with a significant return of



Fatah-PLO elements to the region. Though the exact number of PLO fighters is unclear, with estimates ranging from several hundred to several thousand, depending on whom one speaks to, what is clear is that Fatah has been able to establish a firm base along the coastal road connecting Beirut and Tyre, as well as in the Palestinian refugee camps in Sidon and Tyre.

Deeper Israeli involvement has already been visible these past weeks. Israeli gunships and fighters have attacked PLO bases in Sidon and along the coast — attacks some observers felt were designed more as a tactic to help Amal in its fight against Fatah, than as a direct Israeli response to a terror threat. The searches of ships sailing between Larnaca and Junieh, by the Israeli Navy, can be seen in the same context.

Lahad insists SLA will stand fast

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

ROSH HANIKRA. — The death toll from Monday's roadside bomb attack on a South Lebanese Army force rose to five yesterday, when one of the wounded died in Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The latest casualty brought to 11 the number of SLA troops killed by terrorist action in the past few days. Last night three more SLA soldiers were wounded when their jeep ran over a mine near the village of Hula in the central sector.

The recent strikes against the Hizbullah by the Israel Air Force are also part of a larger strategy, the main purpose of which is to relieve pressure on the SLA by preempting the Hizbullah. If the Shi'ites, however, maintain or intensify their campaign against the SLA, Israel will have to respond along a broader front.

Sources in South Lebanon stressed, however, that the SLA was continuing to function as a cohesive military organization, despite the demoralizing effect of the losses.

The commander of the South Lebanese Army, Gen. Antoine Lahad, also made it clear on Monday night that there was no danger to the continued existence of his force.

He condemned his Christian colleagues in the north for cooperating with the PLO and helping Arafat's fighters in their battle against the Amal Shi'ites.

Such a response could theoretically include the following elements: intensified pin-point strikes by gunship against the Hizbullah infrastructure in the immediate vicinity north of the security zone; the bolstering of SLA front-line units with Israeli personnel and specialized equipment; and the upgrading of SLA equipment, especially an enhanced technical ability to detect threats.

Israeli policy vis a vis Southern Lebanon remains at this point one of minimal involvement. Since its final pullback in June 1985, the IDF has reintroduced and withdrawn its forces according to needs in the field. In the past, the bolstering of forces has come in response to specific incidents or threats, the policy guideline being to "get the job done and get out as quickly as possible."

This was the result of the well-learned lesson: that the longer the IDF spends on Lebanese soil, the more Shi'ite enemies it makes, including moderate Shi'ite elements who are usually prepared to maintain a working, but invisible, relationship with the SLA and Israel.

If the current erosion of the SLA continues or accelerates, however, sporadic or minimal Israeli military involvement may not be able to stem the possibility of an SLA collapse and a PLO return to the south. This would force policymakers here into a situation of counselling reinvolution in the affairs of Southern Lebanon.

Ministry was hesitating to demand the full-time wearing of seat belts: "Some say that in a hot country, wearing seat belts is uncomfortable and can cause drivers to be tense and cause more accidents."

Despite this argument, he said, the authority will soon launch a big publicity campaign advising drivers and passengers to wear seat belts in town as well, as a voluntary measure. In addition, it is asking a few municipalities to pass ordinances requiring the use of belts at all times, on an experimental basis. If such experiments show a clear improvement in reducing deaths and injuries, the ministry will consider legislation for the entire country.

Adler had just completed a pre-

Prime Minister Shamir reviews an honour guard at National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem yesterday. Behind him is Police Inspector-General David Krans.

(Rahamin Israeli)

Press strike possible today

Jerusalem Post Staff
The press workers of all the daily newspapers have decided to strike as of 1 p.m. today, unless an agreement is reached with the publishers on demands connected with the introduction of new technologies.

The committee of the daily newspaper press workers, which announced the strike, said they had the support of the national union of printers. They said the strike decision had been taken after "all attempts to arrive at a compromise" with the publishers had failed.

The executive of the Daily News-

papers' Publishers Association issued a statement last night saying that the strike declared by the press and daily newspaper employees contravened existing labour agreements.

The press workers are seeking wage increases despite the fact that the agreements they have signed prohibit them from making additional demands, the statement said.

The association executive informed the press workers that it would brook no deviation from the labour agreements, and that the only way to present their demands was to bring them before the proper authorities as spelled out in the agreements.

A simple matter of seat belts

'She would probably be better off dead'

By JUDY SIEGEL
Post Science and Health Reporter

Because she did not buckle her seat belt, a blind teenage girl who sat in the front seat next to the driver in rain-soaked Jerusalem yesterday is now hovering between life and death with apparently serious brain damage. The driver who was strapped in when the car skidded and crashed, walked away from the accident without injury.

"With a seatbelt, she too would have been saved. Now she is probably better off dead," said Prof. Jakob Adler, head of the emergency department at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek hospital.

Adler, who must try to resuscitate and repair the shattered bodies of the victims of road accidents, says

the needless loss "makes me angry."

Adler, an expert in emergency medicine, accused the various authorities, including his fellow physicians, of procrastination in implementing changes that could reduce the accident toll. He pointed to files piled to the ceiling of his letters to the various authorities, which were unanswered or taken lightly.

Although the government passed a law requiring the wearing of seat belts during inter-city travel, it has failed to follow the example of England, and many U.S. states and the advice of most medical and safety experts, by requiring drivers to wear seat belts whenever they get into a car.

Studies conducted abroad show that wearing seat belts at all times

cuts the fatality rate by an average of 25 per cent. In addition, the severity of all injuries is reduced.

A committee headed by him recommended to the Health Ministry and the police several years ago that the Transport Ministry require the use of seat belts within urban areas as well, but nothing was done.

"Israeli macho prevents most people from using a seat belt in town because the law doesn't require it. If there is no law, they reason, they don't have to do it. It isn't dangerous, they reason. In fact, many injuries and deaths occur in the higher density slower traffic in town."

Eitan Ben-Yehoshua, a former policeman who is now head of the Traffic Safety Authority, told *The Jerusalem Post* why the Transport

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HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

Jounieh-bound ferry sheds light on Lebanese political flip-flop

Phalangists aiding PLO in fight against Shi'ites

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Post Defence Reporter

The Israeli missile boat that prevented a Cypriot ferry from completing its journey to the Christian port of Jounieh last Friday has highlighted yet another shift in Lebanese politics, in which Maronite Phalangists who butchered hundreds of defenceless Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila in 1982 are now helping PLO fighters come ashore to fight other Lebanese.

The shift apparently started some six months ago.

The contacts became so close that PLO's Chairman Yasser Arafat appeared on Lebanese Forces' television and thanked the Christian leadership for its help.

What this help was, Arafat did not say. But Israeli defence sources said the Christians provided papers to help Palestinians through roadblocks. According to one report, thousands of Lebanese passports were sold to the PLO. The Christians also extended permission to land Palestinians at their key port of Jounieh, from which they would proceed to the battle lines in the war against the Shi'ites.

Why are some of the Christian leaders helping the PLO? Probably because the Shi'ites - and not the Palestinians - are now perceived as the main threat to Christian hopes for hegemony in Lebanon, and because the Palestinians are now fighting the Shi'ites. After all, the Palestinians will always be considered foreigners in Lebanon and could never claim legitimacy for any power they may win there.

Over the weekend, a Reuters reporter in Cyprus substantiated some of the IDF claims. In a report from

Larnaca, Alistair Lyon quoted unnamed Palestinian sources as saying: "The Palestine Liberation Organization pays Christian militiamen to run PLO fighters safely into Jounieh and then smuggle them across Beirut's 'green line' into Moslem areas of Lebanon."

The number of Palestinians using this route has been small, according to an Israeli defence source. "There are no busloads of fighters leaving the quay at Jounieh for the south," he said.

Those who do arrive are commanders and other organizers sent to rebuild the PLO's infrastructure, he reported.

There is no shortage of potential fighters in the refugee camps of Ein Hiltwe, Rashidiya, Sabra and Shatila. "The soldiers are available but the PLO lacks the cadres to organize them and it is those cadres whom the Fatah is now trying to send in," the source said.

The personalities helping out the PLO have also been motivated by a desire to win allies for their anticipated confrontation with Syria. Thus they have strengthened their ties with Iraq and Egypt because those countries' leaders are hostile to the Syrian regime.

The monetary aspect must also be taken into account. It is not clear how much the PLO has been paying for the right to pass through the Phalangists' territory, but an Israeli source with some knowledge of the shadier aspects of Lebanese politics said such payments always involve considerable sums.

The aid to the PLO is troubling Israel, which is seeking to keep the Palestinian forces in Iraq, Yemen and other distant countries. For

years, the Israel Navy has been patrolling near Moslem-controlled ports such as Sidon and Tyre to prevent a PLO return. There is a fear that the PLO may eventually turn southwards towards the security zone and towards Israel proper.

At first, Israel warned the Christians not to cooperate with the PLO and such messages were sent through channels to the Christian leadership.

When these messages and public warnings failed to make their mark, the Navy was used to hammer home the point and the Cypriot Sunny Boat was forced to return to Larnaca. A second ferry, the Empress, was stopped briefly on Saturday but allowed to continue on its journey.

The military intervention triggered Christian fears that Israel would impose a blockade on Jounieh and punish the entire Christian community," he insisted.

The defence source interviewed yesterday said such fears were exaggerated. "There is no blockade of Jounieh and we have no quarrel with the majority of the Christian community," he insisted.

The source also refuted a suggestion that Israel was now purposely helping the Shi'ite Amal. "That," he maintained, "is just a by-product of other developments."

Amal militiamen watching Israeli helicopters fire at Palestinian positions near Sidon may be happy to see the sight, but "there are no agreements, arrangements or other forms of cooperation with the Amal leadership," he insisted. Palestinian complaints of collusion among Israel, Syria, the U.S. and Amal are "pure baseless propaganda," he insisted.

Police arrest driver in 'Post' knifing case

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter

A 24-year-old man suspected of taking part in last week's stabbing of two Jerusalem Post night-watchmen was arrested on Monday night at his home in Jerusalem's German Colony.

Police sources said last night that they expected to arrest the other two assailants shortly. The three are suspected of stabbing the Post guards on Thursday night after trying to forcibly enter the Post building to obtain copies of the Jerusalem weekly *Kol Ha'ir*.

The suspect told police that he had been at the scene and that he was the driver of the Fiat 124 which witnesses identified as having carried the three attackers. But he denied any

connection with the stabbing and said he did not know the identities of the two passengers who had been in his car.

A Jerusalem police team led by First Sergeant Yoram Sa'ar located the suspect after combining intelligence data with information in the police computer about the ownership of the Fiat.

A police source told *The Post* last night that the investigation had been "extremely complex" because the computer had shown that the Fiat belonged to a Herzliya man, when in fact it had subsequently changed hands 10 times.

The suspect will appear in the Jerusalem Magistrates' Court this morning for a remand hearing.

'No chance' for Murphy to revive peace process

Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The visit to the region by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, which began yesterday, would not revive the moribund peace process, a senior source in Jerusalem said yesterday.

The source defined the peace process as "non-existent" and "dead," and said that Murphy, who late yesterday was due in Amman and is scheduled to visit Israel tomorrow, would "not change this situation."

Indeed, officials in Jerusalem suggested that Murphy's current swing around the Middle East would focus on an attempt to re-establish American credibility and influence in the region in the wake of the Iranian arms sales fiasco. Murphy was also

expected to discuss in Amman and Jerusalem the joint economic development plan for the West Bank.

"Murphy will probably not even attempt to tackle the problem of convening an international conference or a preparatory committee for such a conference," said the senior source.

Jordan, which for months flatly opposed the idea of setting up such a committee, with its implication of direct Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian talks, is now said to be agreeable to such a committee if convened under an "international" aegis.

But the senior source said that as things currently stand, there is no chance of setting up such a committee.

Vanunu hunger striking

By MENACHEM SHALEV
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Mordechai Vanunu has reportedly begun a hunger strike to protest against his "solitude" and what he has described as attempts by prison authorities to "break him."

The former Dimona nuclear technician's attorney, Amnon Zichroni, will visit him this morning to determine his condition.

Vanunu, awaiting trial for allegedly revealing Israel's nuclear secrets to the London *Sunday Times*, was deprived of daily newspapers and his Walkman set after he flashed a message on his palm about his return to

Israel to waiting reporters outside the Jerusalem District Court on December 21.

Zichroni said last night that the prison warden was allowing his client only one book at a time.

Vanunu, who is being held in solitary confinement and is permitted a daily one-hour stroll declared his hunger strike on Sunday while being visited for the first time by his parents and younger brother Asher. He reportedly told Asher that "a man cannot be so lonely" and that "my food is given to me as if I was a dog. I don't need their food, so I'll go on a hunger strike."

Old-style love of Zionism

Old-style Christian Socialist Zionism is apparently still alive, indeed, flourishing out there. Fernando Leon de Vivero, the 80-year-old president of Peru's Chamber of Deputies and one of the founders of his country's ruling Apra (American Popular Revolutionary Alliance) Party, visited Israel in 1966. Now here on his second visit, Israel, he seems to be saying, looks even better. "The spirit and the actions of the Jewish people have transformed Jerusalem, which now has forests and great buildings, especially buildings... This is a great country. It has taught us (veteran Peruvian Socialists) that, by transforming the desert, it is possible to change geography, geology, agriculture and the psychology of people, and thus the history and destiny of human beings."

IN PERSON BENNY MORRIS

I couldn't have said it better. De Vivero adds: "Here is where we learned the meaning of what Goethe used to teach - that politics is not merely a technical matter, it is also aesthetics." During our 40-minute conversation de Vivero went on to quote Pascal, Spengler and other luminaries, including Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, the legendary founder of Apra, which reached power for the first time two years ago. "This," he said, "I think referring to the Israeli experience, 'is the mysticism taught by Haya de la Torre, and it is what most identifies the Jewish people.'"

De Vivero is here as head of a 14-man Apra delegation that will attend the inauguration of a new forest, dedicated to Haya de la Torre.



(Rahumim Jareli)

'Sharon biased on lamb imports'

By DVORAH GETZLER
Post Knesset Reporter

Why can't the Treasury convene a meeting of the directors-general of the Industry and Trade and Agriculture Ministries and the director of the budget in the Treasury? According to Labour MK Haim Ramon and Citizens Rights Movement MK Dedi Zucker, the answer is to be found down at Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon's Negev farm.

Sharon, say Ramon and Zucker, stands to make a \$650,000 profit

from the sale of 65 tons of mutton and lamb from his flocks.

But that profit would be endangered, the MKs allege, if the committee meets to approve a recommendation of a sub-committee to import some 600 tons of lamb to meet the expected increase in demand during the Moslem fast month of Ramadan.

Failure to approve the imports would, according to the sub-committee's calculations, push up the price of local meat by about \$1

per kg.

But the directors-general committee that must approve the recommendations stubbornly refuses to convene, and Treasury inquiries as to the reason for the refusal have been ignored.

Ramon and Zucker also point out that, as the recent crisis in cigarette manufacture showed, Sharon's official ministerial policy is to bring imports into the country as soon as some local shortfall threatens to boost prices unduly.



The wall of the Degel Reuven synagogue, in Jerusalem's Meyouhas St., which collapsed yesterday as a result of the recent heavy rains. (Elihu Harati)

Bruno: Drastic budget cuts must precede tax reform

By AVI TEMKIN
and MICHAEL YUDELMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporters

Reform of the tax system will be possible only after a drastic cut in the state budget, the governor of the Bank of Israel, Michael Bruno, said yesterday.

He said tax rates had to be lowered to close the gap between the cost of labour to employers and the take-home pay of employees and thereby increase productivity. But such a step could only be taken after cutting the budget.

Speaking at a seminar held for the Treasury's budget department, Bruno said a package deal between the Histadrut, the government and the private employers was essential to renew economic growth. He stressed that the labour federation should agree to a freeze of nominal wages in return for price stability.

Bruno suggested that the government promise to the employers that it would reduce labour costs by reducing taxes and contributions to the National Insurance Institute. But these reductions should only be carried out within the framework of a

package deal, he said.

Speaking at the same seminar, Finance Minister Moshe Nissim said that the industrialists should not look to state subsidies to solve the problem of their falling profits. Nissim said the solution lay in "efficiency, not the budget." The finance minister has repeated several times in the last several days that exporters' profits should be boosted by cutting wages, and not by receiving more funds from the Treasury.

In a related development, Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar yesterday denied that the talks with the government had reached a dead end. Kessar said that on Monday the labour federation presented the government with a proposal for "moderate reform in the tax system."

Kessar said the reports that his meeting with Vice Premier Shimon Peres and Nissim had ended in crisis were "inaccurate." The meeting was "businesslike," he said.

Histadrut Trade Union Department chairman Haim Haberfeld meanwhile said that so far no progress had been achieved in the talks

between the Histadrut and the government on the economic programme. Speaking to the department's coordinating committee, Haberfeld reiterated that the Histadrut would not forgo the cost-of-living allowance as a means of protecting wage-earners' pay, because real wages had not been raised in six years.

The Histadrut has made it clear to Peres and Nissim that it would not support tax reforms which have not been "thoroughly examined" by a qualified public committee, Haberfeld said.

The closer you look at the proposed economic programme, especially the tax reforms, the more you find the social and economic implications have not been fully examined, Haberfeld said.

He said the report of Finance Minister actuary Nahum Vermus which noted that the programme ignored the effect of the reforms on the rights of some 650,000 pension-fund members, was itself enough to cast doubt upon the programme's credibility.

WHO IS A JEW?

The Aguda and NRP initiative gathered momentum this week, after the resignation of interior minister Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz who refused to register Shoshana Miller, a reform convert, as Jewish. Peretz's resignation took effect yesterday.

The coalition executive also reminded Shapira and Shaki that at least six known supporters of their amendment were abroad. Hence it could not possibly muster a majority.

Shapira and Shaki agreed to postpone their initiative for one week.

One Orthodox MK outside the coalition, Avraham Verdiger (Morasha), would very much like to present the amendment this morning.

In another development, Peretz said that he will recommend to the

Council of Tora Sages, due to deliberate Shas's political future in a fortnight, that the party leave the coalition if an acceptable solution to the problem of reform conversions is not adopted by that time.

The prime minister yesterday put deputy minister Ronnie Milo of Herut in charge of the Interior Ministry. But formally the portfolio is in Shamir's hands, held in trust for Shas should Peretz rejoin the cabinet.

He said the report of Finance

Rubinstein asks PM to halt demolition of Arab homes

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein asked Prime Minister Shamir yesterday to order a cessation of all planned demolitions of homes in the Arab sector that were built without permits until the issue comes before the cabinet.

Rubinstein told a delegation of Arab mayors who came to the Knesset to complain about the demolition of the homes of the Arab el-Hawalid Beduin tribe in the North that he would find shelter for the families

who had been made homeless by the demolitions. They are said to include 22 children.

Earlier, a demonstration by hundreds of local Arab leaders protesting against the demolitions was held in the rain outside the Knesset.

Dr. Yosef Ginat, the former aide to Ezer Weizman on Arab affairs, criticized the demolitions at the rally.

Ginat said the government should itself appeal to the courts to delay the scheduled demolitions in the

The President and members of the Tel Aviv-Yafo Rotary Club
announce in great sorrow the passing of
the long-time Rotarian
BENEDETO ALONZO
and share the grief of Emilia and the family.

We mourn the passing of a great lady and
a very dear old friend
FLORENCE DWORSKY
Jean and Sam Rothberg

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION
VOLCANI CENTER, BET DAGAN
To our colleague
ETTIE SHUR AND FAMILY
Heartfelt sympathies on the loss of your husband
ZVI (Henry) SHUR
Members of the Institute of Soils and Water

On the first anniversary of the death of our dearest
GILA (Joyce) HABER
née Noll
a graveside memorial service will be held on Friday, January 9, 1987,
at 12 noon, at the Nahlat Yitzhak Cemetery.
Eitan, Michal, Ilan
Becky and Denis Noll
Miri Glorin

The Nahal Soreq Nuclear Research Centre
and the Pelach Family
announce the funeral of
Prof. YISRAEL PELACH
one of the founders of the Nahal Soreq Nuclear Research Centre.
The funeral will take place on Friday, January 9, 1987 (8 Tevet 5747),
leaving from the Sanhedria Funeral Parlour, Jerusalem, at 11 a.m. for
Har Hamenuhot.
Those who cherish his memory and recognize the importance of his
achievements are invited to pay last respects.

On the 30th day after the passing of our beloved
ISAAC GINSBERG
There will be a memorial and tombstone unveiling service
at 4 p.m. Thursday, January 8, 1987, 7 Tevet
at the Kibitz Tzora cemetery.
The Family

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	6.1.87	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	3	7	8	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	3	7	8	Cloudy
BUNOS AIRES	15	20	24	Clear
CHIYAO	-4	-21	-1	Clear
COPENHAGEN	-18	-14	-26	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	0	3	7	Sunny
GENEVA	-5	-3	3	Clear
HELSINKI	-21	-18	-8	Clear
HONG KONG	14	17	20	Clear
JOHANNESBURG	15	20	25	Clear
LISBON	6	4	11	Clear
LONDON	6	4	9	Cloudy
MADRID	12	10	17	Clear
MONTREAL	-15	-5	-21	Cloudy
NEW YORK	-2	-8	-2	Clear
OSLO	-16	-12	10	Sunny
PARIS	1	3	8	Cloudy
RIO DE JANEIRO	19	24	28	Clear
SAO PAULO	19	24	28	Clear
STOCKHOLM	-2	-10	-27	Clear
TOKYO	2	3	5	Cloudy
TORONTO	-12	-10	14	Clear
ZURICH	-2	-7	4	Cloudy

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Rains to stop during the day, partly cloudy.

	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min-Max	Today's Max
Jerusalem	67	4-6	10
Tel Aviv	100	7-17	8
Nahariya	48	5-14	15
Safed	57	3-9	8
Haifa Port	49	8-16	16
Eilat	87	7-12	15
Suez	60	7-7	13
Afula	57	7-15	16
Shomron	60	6-9	12
Tel Aviv	90	11-14	16
B-7 Airport	82	7-12	16
Jericho	80	9-15	17
Gaza	81	11-14	17
Bethsheva	57	8-13	16
Eilat	34	13-19	20

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church in the U.S., the Most Reverend Edmond L. Browning, and the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, the Right Reverend Samir Kasit, were greeted yesterday at city hall by Mayor Teddy Kollek.

The Haifa Rotary Club will hold a business meeting at the Shulamit Hotel at 1 p.m. today.

Nachman Shai of Galei Zahal will speak on "The Press and National Security in Israel" at the Jerusalem Rotary Club weekly meeting at 1 p.m. today in the YMCA.

ARRIVALS

Canadian Hadassah-Wizo president Cecily Petrov and Australian Wizo president Ann Zahld, for the plenary session of the World Wizo Executive.

Correction

An article in the December 26 *Jerusalem Post* incorrectly quoted Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny as saying that a PLO that ultimately negotiated with Israel would be "a different PLO altogether."

In fact, Ambassador Bassiouny said that the organization itself would remain the same but the nature of the PLO would be different once it recognized UN Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for coming to the negotiating table.

Bassiouny, who made his comments before a Rotary Club meeting, also did not say that Egyptians did not travel abroad because they were poor. He said they simply "do not have the habit of travelling abroad."

Civil Defence exercise

The Civil Defence authorities are holding an exercise in the region of Ben-Gurion Airport today and tomorrow. The Israel Defence Forces announced.

Gunshot sounds will be simulated and sirens heard. In the event of a real emergency, sirens will issue rising and falling sounds.

SHOWDOWN

(Continued from Page One)

Agency for Leumi, and Hevrat Ha'evdim for Bank Hapoalim.

The immediate threat, however, is to three directors - Hurvitz, Micha Efrati, the Kibbutz Geva member who represents the agricultural sector on Leumi's board, and Amnon Goldenberg, a leading Tel Aviv lawyer and former head of the Israel Bar. These three, together with Pecker, made up the committee that formulated the deal with Japhet.

Pecker's surprise resignation was tendered to Leumi chief executive officer Mordechai Einhorn yesterday, in the absence of Hurvitz, to whom it was addressed. Pecker wrote: "I have always believed that office-holders bear public responsibility for their actions."

He went on to say that "although the terms of Mr. Japhet's departure were determined in a bona fide manner... they were excessive and do not stand up to public criticism. Therefore, as one who has been a board member for many years and who, at the request of the board, dealt with the salary and terms of the chairman and chief general manager, I have decided... to resign."

Pecker's last sentence was the one with most relevance to today's board meeting, and could be interpreted in different ways. It read: "I wish to make clear that my resignation in no way represents any criticism of other board members who recently fixed the terms of Mr. Japhet's leaving [the bank]."

Libya admits attacks beyond 'danger line' in Chad's civil war

PARIS — Libya admitted yesterday for the first time that it has carried out military operations in Chad beyond the "danger line" separating the two countries. The admission came in a statement issued by the Libyan government, which said the attacks were "an exceptional reprisal action which will not be repeated except in case of a new aggression."

A communiqué issued by the Libyan government's Bureau (Embassy) in Paris called on France not to intervene in the fighting in Chad and to "allow the Chadians to determine their own fate."

In admitting Libyan attacks, the statement apparently was referring to the Libya's bombing on Saturday of two places south of the 16th parallel. France's self-declared intervention line. One civilian was killed and four were wounded.

The intervention line was established by France to stop Libyan-backed rebels driving south to the capital, N'Djamena, to overthrow President Hissene Habre.

Since 1983, France has responded

to incursions below the line with air strikes against Libyan or rebel targets in northern Chad.

French officials said the government still was considering the "appropriate response" to the latest raids. French political leaders said there could be French military action, presumably by France's Jaguar fighter-bombers that are based in N'Djamena.

Habre's government said yesterday its forces had inflicted a new "major defeat" on a Libyan column between the rebel centre at Bardai and the Libyan base of Aouzou in extreme northern Chad. It gave no details and there were no independent accounts of the fighting.

In Moscow, the Soviet Union condemned what it called U.S. intervention in Chad, and said the Central African country should be left to solve its own internal problems.

The U.S. recently agreed to send up to \$15m. in military aid to the government of president Habre. (AP, Reuters)

Chinese students hit press

PEKING — Peking University students yesterday hit back with humor on an official newspaper that accused them of being naive and scared of the truth.

On Monday they burnt copies of the *Peking Daily* to protest against its coverage of the nationwide student demonstrations for more freedom and democracy.

And yesterday they put up half a dozen illegal posters on campus attacking the paper even further. One poster contained 10 mock regulations giving the requirements of false news — a satire on the 10 regulations issued by Peking's city authorities last month on the holding of demonstrations.

Freedom of the press and publishing and more democracy have

been the main demands made in a month of protests on at least 12 campuses across China.

Standing in below-freezing temperatures, students said they doubted there would be more protests.

"We have achieved our short-term objective, to give the government a shock. Now we have the pressures of exams and then a month's holiday," one student said.

"As to long-term objectives, who knows?" he said.

China's *Communist Party Daily*, quoting previous statements by top leader Deng Xiaoping, yesterday denounced the pro-democracy student protests as the result of "bourgeois liberalism" that some leaders had failed to quell. (Reuters, AP)

'Surrogate' mom wants her baby back

HACKENSACK, New Jersey (AP) — The first-ever trial in the U.S. for custody of a child born of a surrogate mother opened here Monday with emotional pleas from both sides.

Legal experts predicted its outcome could determine whether "womb rental" takes off or becomes just a passing fad.

In the past decade, more than 500 women have agreed, for a price, to give birth to children for couples who could not have their own.

But this went far from smooth in the case of this trial. The mother fled to Florida with the child and was eventually tracked down for the adopting couple by a detective.

There are some things money can't buy, the lawyer for Mary Beth Whitehead, a 29-year-old woman

fighting for custody of the child she contracted to have for \$10,000 told the court.

"Baby M," as she is known, was born last March 27.

But the lawyer for the father, William Stern, and his wife Elisabeth, retorted that "the promise of life should be enforced."

Stern, a 40-year-old biochemist, said with his voice often breaking that he had opted for a surrogate mother because his wife had multiple sclerosis and pregnancy could have paralyzed or killed her.

A few days after giving birth to Baby M, Mrs. Whitehead turned her over to the Sterns. But soon afterwards, the surrogate mother decided she could not bear being without her and returned to the Sterns, asking for "her" child back.

Reagan likely to choose new CIA director

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The White House is looking for a replacement for Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director William Casey because it is unlikely that he will return to work following the removal of a cancerous tumour from his brain, ABC-TV said Monday.

Casey, who underwent surgery on December 18, was described as conscious and clear-minded but unable to speak, walk or control the right side of his body, ABC reported.

If quoted unidentified administration sources as saying the White House hoped President Reagan would be able to nominate a new CIA director by the time he makes his annual State of the Union address to Congress later this month.

It said leading candidates included Vernon Walters, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, former Senate Republican leader Howard Baker, and former senator and U.S. arms negotiator John Tower.

Elton John recovering

SYDNEY (AP) — British rock star Elton John, who has been suffering from throat problems, was recovering here yesterday from what hospital officials said was a successful operation.

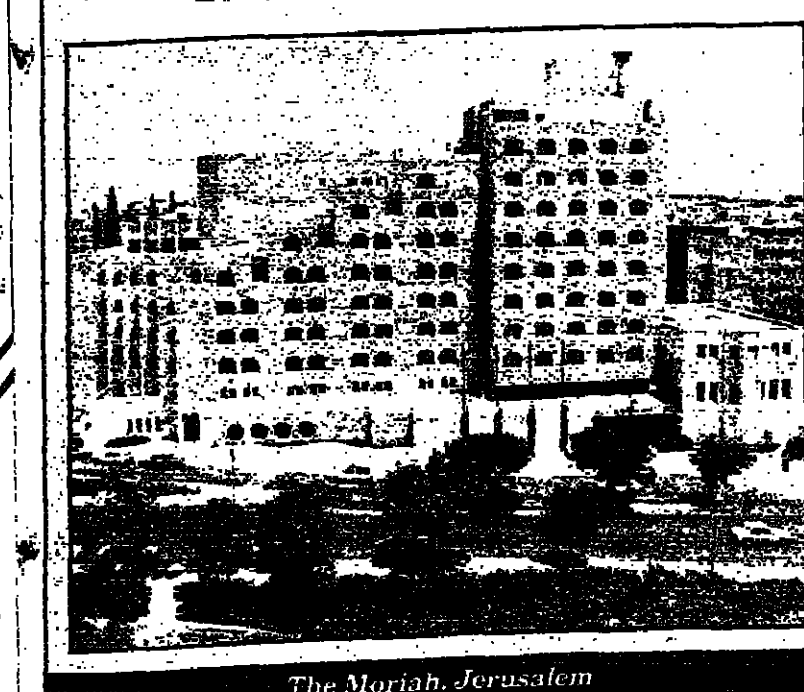
Shevardnadze in Kabul

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has appealed for a successful cease-fire in Afghanistan so that Soviet troops can return to their homeland, the Tass news agency reported.

THEY TAKE PLEASURE IN PLEASING

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The Aviya Sonesta Beach Hotel, Eilat •
The Ramada Continental Hotel, Tel Aviv •
The Tel Aviv Plaza • The Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv •
The Yamit Tower, Tel Aviv •
The Moriah, Jerusalem •

They know just what their guests appreciate in the morning. They give complimentary copies of **The Jerusalem Post.**



The Moriah, Jerusalem



Hopeful passengers wait for a rare train yesterday at the Opera Metro station in Paris. Industrial action has now been called for by four public-transport unions, in addition to the railway strike which has disrupted travel in France for the last 20 days. (AFP telephoto)

Paris crippled by transit strike

PARIS — A one-day strike against the conservative government's economic policies disrupted subway and bus service and electric power supplies yesterday, forcing workers to spend hours reaching darkened offices.

Premier Jacques Chirac convened his 41 ministers for an unusual full cabinet meeting, then told reporters his government was "absolutely unanimous" in refusing to change its stance.

The major issue is the government's refusal to allow any public sector wage increases over three per cent this year, as part of its anti-inflation programme.

The strike called by the Communist-led General Confederation of Labour (CGT), France's largest union, caused long delays for morning commuters on the Paris Metro and suburban lines.

Sporadic power shortages hit the capital and at least half a dozen other

regions, the state-run Electricité de France said.

Meanwhile the strike of France's long-distance trains, not directly related to yesterday's work stoppage, moved into its 20th day, cutting normal service by roughly half.

A 24-hour stoppage by dockworkers blocked activity in French ports, and there were also scattered stoppages in state arsenals and post and sorting offices. (AP, Reuters)

Communist rebels begin talks with officials in Manila

MANILA (AP) — The Philippines government opened talks with Communist rebels yesterday, but officials said snags over the draft constitution could delay progress in settling the Moslem insurgency in the south.

A three-member government panel met for more than two hours with counterparts from the rebel National Democratic Front in the first round of "substantive talks" on ending the 18-year Communist rebellion.

The two sides said they will meet again next Tuesday in an attempt to reconcile differences on a common agenda for negotiations.

Government negotiator Teofisto Guingona said his panel had decided to work for agreement on issues of "food and freedom, jobs and justice" in hopes they could make progress and extend the cease-fire. The 60-day truce began December 10.

During the session, the Front submitted a 10-point list of "priority demands" and called on the government to act on it as a sign of "good faith and good will."

The list included reorganization of the armed forces, release of all remaining political prisoners, repeal of all laws that violate human rights and punishment of soldiers and government officials guilty of human rights violations.

The list also called for compensating victims of abuse, disbanding of the civil militia and private armies and removing of national police from military control.

Earlier, President Corason Aquino convened a special cabinet committee to consider a demand by a Moslem rebel leader that she suspend portions of the draft constitution to enable talks to continue on ending the 14-year-old Islamic rebellion.

Judge delays trial of group charged with arms sales

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge agreed Monday to delay the trial of 13 people accused of trying to smuggle \$2.2 billion in arms to Iran, but refused to set a new date until he hears from the special prosecutor investigating the Iran-Contra arms scandal.

Defence attorneys asked the U.S. District Judge Leonard Sand to push back the case, scheduled to go to trial next month, after prosecutors said they have not yet spoken with the special prosecutor.

Sand has delayed pretrial hearings in the case three times at the request of assistant U.S. Attorney Lorna Schofield because prosecutors want to review facts about the disclosure of White House-sanctioned arms shipments to Iran.

U.S. helicopter evades missile attack in gulf

BAHRAIN — Merchant navigation in the southern Persian Gulf was normal yesterday, hours after a merchant ship fired a missile at a U.S. Navy helicopter, marine shipping executives said.

gunboats and warplanes attack merchant vessels.

The Iranian raids are often in retaliation for Iraqi missile attacks on tankers sailing to Iran's ports and oil terminals in the northeastern part of the gulf.

"There was a brief period of reluctance and apprehension in the gulf after the chopper was fired upon, but navigation has been largely regular since daybreak [yesterday]," said one Dubai-based shipping agent, who refused to be identified further.

These attacks and retaliation on merchant vessels have become known as the "tanker war."

The U.S., British and French navies maintain task forces that patrol the gulf waters, south of the region that Iraq defines as an exclusion zone of military operations.

The U.S. Defence Department said the helicopter was fired at around 4.30 p.m. Monday as it flew over waters to the northwest of the United Arab Emirates.

The three countries have vowed to protect freedom of navigation along international shipping lanes in the southern gulf.

The helicopter took immediate evasive action on spotting the missile which missed the aircraft. The Pentagon statement said the missile was fired by a merchant ship, but did not specify which.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic magazine *Al-Dustour*, Iraq's air force commander, Air Marshal Hameed Shaaban warned foreign companies to keep their oil tankers and merchant ships away from Iranian oil terminals in the gulf, which he said would be targets for intensive raids.

The shipping executives reported a high frequency of U.S. and British military helicopter overflights in the southern gulf, where Iran's navy

He also warned civil airlines not to fly Iranian to airports. (AP, Reuters)

Fatal Amtrak train ran through stop signal

CHASE, Maryland (AP) — The three Conrail engines struck by a passenger train in a collision that killed 15 people and injured more than 170, had run a stop signal moments before the crash, officials investigating Amtrak's worst accident said Monday.

The Conrail train's signal near the site had signified "stop" for at least three hours before the accident, Nall said, but officials were not sure what was shown by another signal for the Conrail train, about 4 kilometers from the accident site.

The Washington Post yesterday quoted sources as saying the more distant signal erroneously told the crew to proceed. When the engineer saw the stop signal near the accident site, it was too late, the Post said. The train was moving at about 96 km. an hour at the time.

Authorities believe the freight train moved out from the siding "milliseconds before the arrival of the passenger train onto the tracks," federal railroad administration head John Riley said on public television, and the Amtrak engineer, who was killed, had no time to react.

The track switches were set for the Amtrak passenger train at the collision site, where four tracks narrow into two for a river crossing, and the Conrail train ran through the switches, Nall told a news conference late Monday.

Senate unit won't publish data on arms sales to Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Intelligence Committee has turned down President Reagan's request that it publish its findings on U.S. arms sales to Iran, saying this would be premature and might compromise any legal action.

The administration had wanted the committee to publish a vetted account of its confidential hearings, at which several top administration executives testified.

The administration was "outraged and disappointed" Monday night, a White House statement said. "We think the American people have the right to this information to judge for themselves," it added. "The President will continue to do everything he can to see that all the facts come out as quickly as possible."

Robert Byrd, leader of the new Democrat majority in the Senate, said publication would be a mistake as it could compromise the prosecution of anyone who had committed an offence in the affair.

Some members of Congress have accused the administration of breaking anti-terrorism laws by selling arms to Iran.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Mein Kampf' selling well

LONDON (AP) — Adolf Hitler's political autobiography, *Mein Kampf*, is earning royalties in Britain of £20,000 a year for the West German government, London's *Daily Mail* reported Monday.

Margaret Laurence, Canadian writer, 60

TORONTO (Reuters) — Canadian writer Margaret Laurence, who won international acclaim with her novels of small-town life on Canada's prairies, died Monday in her home outside Toronto, a family member said.

A paperback edition currently available for some \$22 has been in demand recently since commercial television last month began repeating the internationally acclaimed documentary, *The World at War*.

The 60-year-old Laurence had been suffering from lung cancer for some time.

Laurence, described by the Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature as Canada's "most successful novelist," was best known for her quartet of prairie novels: *The Stone Angel*, *A Jest of God*, *The Fire-Dwellers* and *Diviners* — her last novel, published 12 years ago.

Would-be 'hijacker' releases boy hostage

GRAPEVINE, Texas (AP) — A gunman who grabbed a 10-year-old boy at an airline ticket counter, and held him hostage while demanding a flight to Egypt, surrendered after being told he could leave the country, an official said.

Tower Bridge reopens

LONDON (AP) — Tower Bridge, one of London's best known landmarks and a major traffic artery across the Thames, was closed for about nine hours Monday night after the collapse of a floating crane damaged part of the superstructure.

The gunman gave himself up late Monday, eight hours after taking the child from his parents at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. He fired a shot into the ceiling, forced his way through a security gate and threatened to kill the child, airport spokesman Joe Dealey said.

"Temporary repairs [have been] effected, the bridge is now open... and all diversions have been lifted," London police reported early yesterday.

The order to close the bridge during Monday night's rush hour caused heavy traffic jams in the City, London's financial district on the north bank of the Thames. Traffic normally loops through this area and around the Tower of London to cross the century-old Tower Bridge, 43 metres above water level.

Today and Tomorrow — Haga (Civil Defence) Exercise at Ben-Gurion Airport

Today and tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday, January 7 and 8, there will be a Haga exercise at Ben-Gurion Airport. During the exercise, the sound of firing and of sirens will be heard. In the event of a real attack, the sirens will sound a rising and falling note.

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Here to seek balance in UK-Israel travel

British tourism minister blasts travel tax

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

So much Hebrew is spoken in London's main shopping thoroughfares that it comes as a surprise to learn that there is more tourist traffic from Britain to Israel than in the opposite direction.

In 1985, for instance, 130,000 tourists came to Israel from Britain, compared with 115,000 Israelis who travelled to the UK.

The British tourism minister, David Trippier, is currently in Israel to promote tourism between the two countries and to devise strategies to attract tourists from other countries.

It is the first visit to Israel by a British tourism minister, though Trippier himself came here six years ago as a backbencher with the Conservative Friends of Israel.

Israeli Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir said Trippier's visit was indicative of the cordial relations between Israel and Britain.

Trippier raised the issue of travel tax, saying it was hardly conducive to "a fruitful interchange of tourist travel."

Speaking at a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday, Trippier also protested against Israel's "illogical" charter flight regulations which, except in the case of bona fide student



British Tourism Minister David Trippier (Zoom 77)

groups, forbid the mixing of passengers from different countries of residence. In other words, said Trippier, "they must be 100 per cent British or 100 per cent Israeli."

Sharir, unwilling to defend Israel's stand, recalled that he had opposed the imposition of travel tax and said it did "more harm than good." It should be abolished, he said. Sharir

also took Trippier's point on Israel's charter-flight rules.

One area of total accord between Israel and Britain is the development of the tourist market in the U.S. The British Tourist Authority together with the Israel Government Tourist Office in the U.S., British Airways and El Al will try to devise packages to lure Americans travelling to one country to stop over in the other.

A difficulty which neither Trippier nor Sharir took into account was that baggage allowances on transatlantic crossings are much more generous than those on flights between European and Mediterranean countries. Thus, anyone travelling from the U.S. to England via Israel or to Israel via England would suddenly have to reduce the amount of baggage he has or pay a fortune in overweight charges.

Informed of this at the news conference, Trippier promised to try to find a solution in consultation with the airline companies.

Another tourism market where Israel barely has a toe-hold, but where Britain has a firm foothold, is Japan. Asked whether Britain would help Israel acquire a larger share of this market, Trippier replied that the two countries were not in competition for Japanese tourists. Rather

they complemented each other; he said.

Britain, he disclosed, had erred in its initial promotional campaign in Japan. Most of Japan's travellers are young women aged 25 and under, whose main pursuits abroad are fashion and theatre. They were not very interested in the Britain of bobbies and beefsteaks depicted in the tourism literature Britain had circulated in Japan. Tourism from Japan picked up after the error was corrected.

Concurrent with their efforts to attract tourists from third countries, Britain and Israel will organize exchange visits for travel agents and travel writers and hold tourist trade weeks.

Trippier said that of all his foreign counterparts, Sharir was the only one he had met who had proposed a joint tourism package deal.

Britain, Trippier said, had realized late how beneficial tourism could be for the national economy. In September 1985, the government gave tourism high priority; when the Treasury was asked to increase funding for tourism development, it topped the budget by 20 per cent.

Britain, like Israel, is eager to encourage tourism outside its large cities.

'We can get 70 air-conditioned new coaches for a song'

Grupper pledges campaign to improve country's railways

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

ATLIT. — The man who used to make the trains slow down, yesterday vowed to get them going again.

Liberal MK Pessah Grupper, stout and stocky, puffed on a thick cigar as Transport Minister Haim Corfu inaugurated a NIS 160,000 platform at the 70-year-old station in Grupper's home town.

While Corfu spoke of a "rosy future" for the railways, Grupper told reporters he had studied the train system and would shortly enlist the Knesset's help to improve it.

The railways' 73 passenger coaches between 15 and 30 years old, were "a disgrace," Grupper said. "We can get 70 air-conditioned new ones for a song," he added. He said

he would table an urgent motion calling for their purchase. Because of competition among European manufacturers, Israel could buy the coaches for some \$30 million, to be paid over 12 years, he said. "We need them and must get them."

Grupper made the headlines as a backbencher a decade ago when it emerged that, on his way home from the Knesset, he persuaded his "old buddies" the engines drivers to slow down so that he could jump off the train at Atlit, where there wasn't a scheduled stop. "Now, with a platform, I won't have to jump so far," he said.

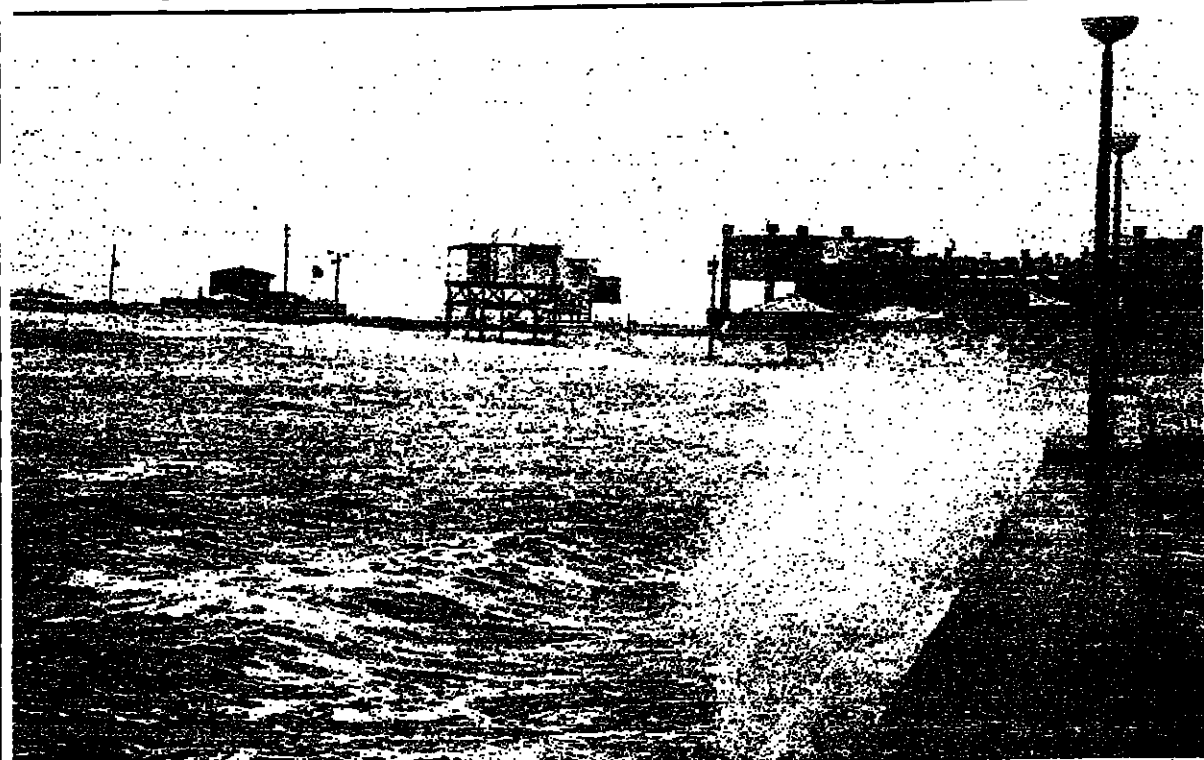
Asked how he felt about a platform bearing his name — everybody calls it the Grupper platform — he

said it was an honour he "deserved" for getting eight of the 28 Haifa-Tel Aviv trains that pass the town daily to stop there. "And I want two more to make the stop."

He noted that he rode the trains every Sunday and Thursday, besides driving some 40,000 kilometres annually in his car. "Believe me, driving into Tel Aviv is murder, and only good trains will make the journey safe, comfortable and cheap."

The trains used to stop at Atlit over half a century ago, when the British government moved thousands of tons of rock by rail from a nearby quarry to Haifa to build the harbour.

By train it's 12 minutes to Haifa and an hour to Tel Aviv.



Only lunatics and lovers brave the edge of town in a storm

While the rain falls heavily on the buildings of the city, at the seaside it drives horizontally, whipping salty spray across beaches made suddenly narrow and grey by huge waves that reach all the way to the esplanade.

When storms strike, the esplanade and beach attract lunatics and lovers.

Three men in colourful wetsuits ride narrow windsurfers back and forth in front of the last wave that curls angrily onto the sand. They are the only people in the water. Occasionally, someone on the Tel Aviv-Jaffa road will stop his car and watch the three triangles of sail — pink, red and blue — go back and forth.

A couple of high-school lovers, carrying their books in knapsacks, hug and huddle as they walk, laughing as they pass a bagette and a bottle of juice back and forth.

A fat blonde woman in bermuda shorts, and a woolsen sweater turned ropey by the rain, walks barefoot on the sand, just in front of the last bit of wave slithering up the sand. It takes a moment before one realizes that she's walking two miniature dogs. They are toy-like and tense. Their torsos are covered by short sweaters.

A few blocks away, people are running from awnings to bus shelters, from doorways to sheltering caves.

The handful of people out on the

esplanade or beach are strollers, dancers in a reverie of loneliness or love, deriving private pleasure from the weather.

From a distance one assesses the possibility for conversation. What is there to say to a man in bright green underpants who carries his trousers in one hand and appears to be dancing around puddles?

A boy rides by on a bicycle. He is carrying a radio in one hand; the

antenna flaps in the wind as he holds the radio close to his ear.

Buildings change colour in such storms. Pale greys under eaves become dark blacks and take on strange shapes.

It's easy to see that the pioneers who carried bricks and plaster in the rush to build the first Jewish city, knew nothing about building next to a beach where, with ferocious patience, the salt would eat away the paint, then the plaster, then the cement, and finally the bricks.

The abandoned opera house two blocks from Mograbi is surrounded by sand, the same beach sand on which the entire city is built. There's

going to be an extension of the esplanade that will lead up past the old opera house, away from the beach and towards the city.

An old man peers out from his small cold shelter outside the opera house at the sea across the street.

Another pair of lovers on the pier 50 metres from civilization, are surrounded by water that crashes around them.

The two figures stand close together and then part. They embrace and part again. The wind is so strong that it lifts the girl's long black hair like a flag.

A strange-eyed unshaven man whistles past. He is not walking or running. He seems to be dancing or bouncing.

A young girl, an English student somewhere, in a long dress that is muddy and wet at the hem, carries her thick Norton Anthology and looks for a place to dreamily read a bit of poetry. She tries one of the wooden gazebos on the esplanade but it offers no shelter.

Later, she finds her way to an empty cafe which, in summer, is crowded all night. There she'll read her poetry, occasionally using a woollen, fingerless glove to wipe a clouded window and stare at the sea.

In summer, the beach is the centre of the city.

In winter, it is as far away as can be imagined.

Tel Aviv Tel Aviv

Robert Rosenberg

Wolf Prize in Agriculture to plant pathologist



Dr. Theodor O. Diener

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Dr. Theodor O. Diener, the renowned American plant pathologist, will receive the \$100,000 Wolf Prize in Agriculture for 1987.

Diener is being honoured "for his discovery and pioneering fundamental research on viroids, the smallest subviral pathogens, and his applied work on viroid detection in crops." His research has direct applications in controlling viral diseases in crops such as potatoes, tomatoes, citrus and avocados, and in the identification of the unique properties of these minute disease agents.

The plant researcher will receive the Wolf Prize, considered one of the most prestigious international awards in agriculture, from President Herzog on May 31 at a ceremony in the Knesset. The Israel-based Wolf Foundation makes six awards annually of \$100,000 each for achievements in agriculture, medicine, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and the arts.

Born in 1921 in Zurich and educated in Switzerland, Diener has been plant pathologist at the Plant Protection Institute of the Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Maryland, since 1959.

Beethoven Fantasy still a mystery

JERUSALEM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, 18th-century concertmaster, Sergio Comolli, soloists for Beethoven: Allan Sternfeld, piano; Anne Feller, soprano; Roger Crook, tenor. Soloists for Tippett: Helen Walker, soprano; Margaret Cable, alto; Neil Jordan, tenor; David Williams, bass. With the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Chorus directed by Roger Bevan Williams. (Lithuania, Jerusalem, May 1986, January 4.) Beethoven: Fantasy in C minor, Opus 80; Tippett: A Child of Our Time, oratorio.

A GLANCE through the literature shows that programme annotators have struggled for years to apologize politely for the Beethoven Fantasy. Nobody seems able to really explain the work beyond sketching a road map of its themes, and in attempting to describe it, all go vainly in search of fresh synonyms for the word "strange." That it was written to close a Vienna concert of Beethoven premieres is well known, and that the choral section seems to be a study for the last movement of the Ninth is obvious upon hearing. But what is it that prompted Beethoven, known for his ruthless self-criticism, to go back to it over a year after the performance and publish it? One listener is still trying to find out.

(Continued from Page One)

liminary study of more than 700 traffic accident victims admitted to his emergency room in 1985. Of these, 2.7 per cent were children up to the age of 14.

The most dangerous hours for traffic accidents are in the afternoon and early evening, from 2 to 8 p.m., with 60 per cent of all accidents causing pedestrian injuries occurring then. Only 30 per cent of the accidents occur between 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Adler has also concluded, on the basis of his experience, that many accidents involve children of three or four whose parents (especially mothers) are busy at home and let them play outside unsupervised. Some of the children arrive alone at the hospital in the ambulance, with their parents coming only later when they notice the kids are missing. This is an acute problem, especially in poorer quarters and in large families.

Adler has urged that rumble strips that slow down traffic be installed in all internal roads in the neighbourhoods with such populations.

Be that as it may, with the exception of a few sour intonations in the strings, the work received an exemplary reading at the hands of Sternfeld, Comolli and al.

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By KEN SHACHTER

For the Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV. — After months of sputtering negotiations, stalled sales and high-octane rhetoric, a new picture has emerged of Israel's car market.

Changes in import duties, purchase taxes and importer markup announced at the beginning of the year will alter buying patterns and prod Israelis towards larger-engined cars, automotive experts say.

Among the winners: Car dealers and importers whose lines feature strong entries with engines between 1300cc and 1600cc; buyers on the market for cars in the same size-range who waited until the new rules were put in force; dealers of new cars imported from the U.S. and European Community countries, except Spain.

Among the losers: Dealers of non-EC and non-U.S. cars, such as Subaru and Volvo; people seeking to sell their used 1600cc cars; and dealers whose lines lack strong-selling models above 1300cc.

Expected to enter the winner category but still uncertain: Importers and dealers of cars manufactured in Spain.

Orit is one car buyer who chose not to wait for the government to issue new rules. She bought a used BMW at below the list price a month ago. The minor repairs the car required brought the total outlay up to the list price. But she said, it's far from certain that she could have struck a better bargain now, notwithstanding estimates that the average used-car price has fallen 10 per cent.

"Ten per cent isn't that much," she said, "and maybe the car we bought wouldn't have gone down 10 per cent. It depends on how many buyers there are and how many sellers."

The new government rules are likely to diminish, if not end altogether, the peculiarly Israeli practice of mismatching big cars and small engines to take advantage of tax preferences. In the past, industry observers said, relatively small 1300cc engines were used to power hefty Ford Sierras.

Pent-up consumer demand is being directed largely toward cars with 1600cc engines, said Hannan Weizman, sales manager at Ras Car Ltd., which imports BMW.

"The demand for 1600cc cars is extremely unbelievable," he said, while sales of 1300cc models are stable. In the past, the dealership didn't offer 1600cc engines since

With the prices out, the new car market is taking shape



Some winners; some losers



purchase taxes encouraged buyers to move up to 1800cc cars.

Hard hit by the cut in import duties on cars from their competitors are importers and dealers of cars

from Japan and Sweden.

Dealers of Japanese cars, including the top-selling Subaru, are already scrambling to maintain their market share. Japan Auto is selling

its stock of 1300cc Subarus at the 1986 price, essentially negating the purchase tax and import duty increases. Sales Manager Katy Gutman said that when new 1300cc cars arrive, the company will absorb the buyer deposit. For example, the price of a NIS 28,773 car will be cut nearly 9 per cent to NIS 25,866.

"We have to make competition with the others," she said.

Ronnie Aronovich, editor of *Auto* magazine and a veteran observer of the Israeli car industry, predicted that Israel would reach an accord under which cars made in Spain — including Seats and some models of Renault, Opel and Ford — would receive the same import preference as cars from other EC countries.

"I believe the Spain thing will be solved in a couple of months," he said. Spain, a new EC member, doesn't remove its tariff barriers for Israeli goods until 1993 while Israel will exempt EC goods from tariffs in two years. Israeli negotiators are seeking a reciprocal tariff reduction from Spain that coincides with the cut in levies by Israel.

Eitan Katz, of Champion Motors, predicted that the new purchase tax categories would cut the market share of sub-1600cc cars from 75 per cent to about 50 per cent.

The importer of Volkswagens and Audis also said that the government decision on prices was likely to revive a "nearly dead" market in used cars as cautious consumers bided their time. Katz and other industry observers said price changes in new cars were likely to be directly reflected by the used-car market.

Israel's auto importers have emerged as clear winners in the car-pricing controversy. They were granted an increased markup and a release from price controls on cars with engines larger than 1600cc.

Arye Carasso, president of the Car Importers Association, said his group would continue to press for an end to all price controls. But, he conceded, the 18 per cent markup granted improved their position.

Just days before the final policy was announced, Carasso said his group had sought a receptive ear in the government in order to have dealer markup increased.

"We thought the Ministry of Transportation was the right place," he said, "and we were beaten."

When asked then what appeals the importers could make, Carasso said: "We can go to the Western Wall and put a little piece of paper in asking that our leaders will be wiser."

BANKING ON IT/Pinhas Landau

Holding the line at Discount

Question: When is consumer credit not consumer credit?

Answer: When the terms are those of business credit. And that, in short, is the story of Bank Discount's new "Extra Discount," touted as the "new concept in credit."

The concept has indeed much credit to it, but the way it is being carried through is less creditworthy. Extra Discount is aimed at the consumer market, where so much of the action has been in banking for the last year. The drive to provide sources of credit, both as regular loans, paid off over a given period at fixed or variable interest rates, or as revolving credit repayable at a pace dictated by the borrower, is clearly set to continue in 1987. Discount's is the first new product on the market this year, and is the first solo venture by that bank in the expanding field of consumer loans.

First, let's see what's good about Extra Discount. No. 1 is the amounts: from NIS 2,500 to NIS 15,000. These are significant sums that go well beyond the existing revolving credit available through current accounts and the Visa credit card, which is operated by the Leumi and Discount groups. The outer limit available to individual customers from these sources is NIS 5,000 and is usually much less.

Consumers, unlike businesses, should not pay up-front charges. It will be interesting to see how this affects marketing of the new service.

Other loans are available for larger amounts, but these do not have the flexibility that a revolving credit facility such as Extra Discount offers. For, after all, the essence of revolving credit is that the client can use as much or as little of the line available to him, as and when he needs it. In a loan, the whole amount is allotted, and has to be used.

But that begs the question, what is it for? When one takes a loan, one usually has a definite target in mind for the money. Individuals typically borrow sums of NIS 5,000-15,000 for major household expenses such as changing the car, decorating or refurbishing the home, or a family trip overseas. In any of these cases, one first assesses how much one needs, then seeks a loan with the best repayment terms available, in order to finance the expense. Many people like the idea of fixed monthly repayments, because that way they "know where they stand." Granted, since most loans have variable interest rates, the size of the repayment may change, but not usually by very much.

Revolving credit is for *ad hoc* use. That is why credit cards are so popular in Western countries, because they allow small to medium-size purchases to be made without having to have the cash actually available in one's current account. At the same time, they do not involve any cost unless and until one actually buys something. Here we come to the major structural flaw in Extra Discount: It costs money just to have, even if it isn't used.

The terms of the credit offered include a commission of 1 per cent of the line's size per quarter. That means that if, for example, one arranges a facility of NIS 5,000

to be available for whatever spending one may want to indulge in, without having anything specific in mind, it will cost NIS 50 a quarter, or NIS 200 per year, even if it remains untouched.

Although Discount notes that this charge of 1 per cent quarterly is a preferred rate, when compared to the usual commission charged for credit allocation to businesses, the bank has missed the point. It is true that consumer credit is supposed to be expensive compared with business rates — that reflects the greater administrative costs involved. But it should only cost when it is used. Consumers, unlike businesses, should not pay up-front charges. It will be interesting to see how this affects marketing of the new service.

This brings us to an even more basic problem: The relative cost of the money. The loan-allocation commission, and other commission charges for debtor accounts that the bank has waived for the introductory period of Extra Discount result in very high interest rates. The basic interest charged on the loan is prime plus 1.75 per cent per month. Today's prime rate is 1.58 per cent per month, so that prime plus 1.75 equals 3.33 per cent per month — the same as the "Visa preferred" credit cards marketed by Discount itself, as well as Leumi, charge for their credit. It is more than the "subsidized" interest rates on personal overdrafts that are available up to NIS 1,500-3,000 at all banks, and less than the 3.85 per cent rate charged on amounts beyond the agreed overdraft limit (the *hariga* rate).

But prime plus 1.75 per cent per month is only the lower end of a range that extends up to prime plus 2.5 per cent monthly. Each individual borrower in an Extra Discount account will have his rate fixed in line with the quality of the collateral he offers, and with other lending criteria the bank operates. At prime plus 2.5, or 4.08 per cent monthly, Extra Discount starts becoming very costly, and that's before the 1 per cent per quarter, or 0.33 per month is added for the allocation commission.

With that, we have 4.41 per cent per month, and even then only on the assumption that the amount allocated is fully used. If it is not, the allocation charge for the line is still paid for the whole amount, so that the actual amount borrowed has an even higher interest rate.

Against its drawbacks, the advantages are its flexibility and the freedom of action it gives, both with regard to the spending decision and to the rate of repayment; that it gives access to every shop, restaurant, and other retail outlet, including the very many that do not accept all or any credit cards; and that it allows the borrower to draw cash from his bank as part of the loan and then to become a cash buyer, with all the advantages that entails when it comes to haggling with stores and taking advantage of special offers.

It may therefore be said that Extra Discount is an important step in the right direction, in terms of equipping the consumer with better finance facilities. Discount got the concept right, especially in the Israeli retail reality where cash bargains are often available to the hard-working and hard-bargaining consumer.

However, they have made mistakes in the execution, especially by building in fixed costs and charging too much. But either Discount or one of its competitors can correct these defects in an improved version, which will probably follow in due course.

Signs of upturn in dismal '86 tourism figures

Post Economic Staff

The number of tourists arriving in Israel in 1986 fell 13 per cent from the previous year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday. Last year 1.1 million tourists visited Israel, compared with 1.26 million in 1985.

The largest drop came in tourism from North America, which experienced a 44 per cent decline in U.S. tourists, and a 27 per cent decline in Canadian tourists. Tourism from

Europe dropped 3 per cent, but the number of Argentine tourists doubled in 1986.

Despite the year-on-year decline, the 1986 figures represent a slight increase from 1984.

The threat of international terrorism and the drop in the value of the dollar have been widely blamed for the falloff, which began last February and gained momentum after April, injuring Israel's tourist industry the most during the normally

heavy summer months.

However, the bureau's figures indicate that the downturn may be reversing, as November and December showed an increase of 5 per cent.

In December, 116,000 tourists came to Israel for the holiday season, an increase from a year earlier of almost 20 per cent, without seasonal adjustment.

The figures were compiled from estimates made from police records of border entries.

TOURISM BRIEFS/Greer Fay Cashman

Laromme Hotel joining KLM marketing network

The Laromme Hotel in Jerusalem, which for some months has been involved in mutual marketing campaigns with the Carlton Pentas, this week became part of the International Reservation Chain of KLM Holland's Golden Tump company. The chain includes some 250 hotels worldwide.

NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE MORIAH takeover of the Tel Aviv Plaza were concluded some months ago, but the acquisition became official January 1 and the hotel now goes by the name of the Moriah Plaza. The new management is investing \$1 million in improvements and renovations. First on the list is the lobby area which will be enlarged by approximately 500 square metres in keeping with Moriah policy of large public areas in hotel entrances.

TWA HAS EXPANDED the availability of glatt kosher meals to all flights leaving from Israel. In the past, glatt kosher meals were served

only on non-stop flights to New York. The special service, under the supervision of Rabbi Yoel Suissa, takes into account the special regulations applying to a *shmita* year.

JERUSALEM'S INTERCONTINENTAL Hotel is offering as an incentive to guests free use of a Budget Rent-A-Car vehicle. Hotel guests will pay only for mileage and insurance, but not for the actual rent of the car. The offer is open from January 10-March 15.

ASIA CENTRE HAS BEEN APPOINTED as the Israel representative of Cathay Pacific Airlines. Hongkong's national carrier, which has been operating for some 40 years now, has 400 flights a week to 30 destinations around the globe. In addition to the dietary options available on most international flights — vegetarian, kosher, sugar-free, etc. — Cathay Pacific also offers ethnic choices such as Chinese, Japanese or Indian food. As the airline's representative here, Asia Centre can also attend to acquisitions of visas to

China for holders of foreign passports.

THE ISRAEL-AMERICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE intends to address itself to the problem of bringing more American Jewish tourists to Israel. The trade and tourism division of the chamber has sent an urgent request to the government and to tourism promoters to intensify efforts to promote Israel as a tourism destination among American Jewish communities. According to the chamber, 80 per cent of American Jewry has never been to this country.

CHANGES IN THE OPERATIONS of the IRI Sharon Hotel in Herzliya — namely the gradual conversion to an apartment — have not cancelled out non-resident activities. The hotel's health club still functions and receptions for events will continue to be catered by the staff.

Bogus tax inspector robs cab driver of NIS 360

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A man posing as an income tax inspector yesterday robbed a cab driver of NIS 360.

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Placed by the bird table? (4,5)
 - The condition to maintain (5)
 - Not the favourite in society? (8)
 - Circle in the plane above the water (8)
 - Apprehend within a week? No way! (5)
 - Barges in maybe with the aim of reducing friction (8)
 - Chair or soft settle (7)
 - A person colouring rope (7)
 - Inclined to hang around a social worker (8)
 - A mother can be the making of a man (4)
 - Sounds like thrush in mass formation (8)
 - Abroad the Conservatives are not subject to restriction (8)
 - Article, note, and royal letters causing strong feeling (5)
 - Got a ruler replaced—that will keep things right (9)

- DOWN**
- Dash could be a disadvantage (5)
 - Urges for example to compose song (4,2)
 - A quarter had not paid, being dogged (8)
 - Little beasts pocketing loot can give rise to complaint (7)
 - No, it's all arranged, the horse will appear (8)
 - Foreigner receiving the sovereign—he's choked (9)
 - A talk written up as a story (4)
 - Isn't ill or indisposed a great deal (9)
 - Left at home to occupy a relative (8)
 - Plant a container like this (8)
 - Re-doing puzzle when not given any attention (7)
 - Having no work to do, some take unpaid leave (4)
 - Strike in a recession, as is natural (6)
 - Tea—great for disorder! (5)

SCRIBBLE PAD

Yesterday's Solution

JOBS COMPORTEERS
O R I D E U
C E S S E S S A N N A N
P A W S I S E C
R E C E B O T H E N O S E
C I T I U Y E S
P I T C H A R D E V E N T S
B I I B I K
R I S I N G Y A S C A G N I
T E K E O B N E
Y E A S T I N E S S R O O T
M S W D P S S
A L I B I E D E N A T A
N O C A L O I
M E T E O R O L O G I C A L

ACROSS: 1 Crashing, 7 Boers, 8 Isolate, 9 Oil, 10 Fade, 11 Return, 13 Precip, 14 Astute, 17 Quarry, 18 Edam, 28 Gnu, 22 Conundrum, 23 Nurse, 24 Rhapsody, **DOWN:** 1 Chief, 2 Abridge, 3 Heel, 4 Noises, 5 Heron, 6 Isolate, 7 Bequest, 12 Finance, 13 Progeny, 15 Undergo, 16 Branch, 17 Quart, 19 Mummy, 21 Snip.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Husky
 - Stories
 - Change
 - Cony
 - ...-operated lever
 - Year
 - Cane
 - Unclosed
 - Too
 - Gratuity
 - Sole
 - Impure
 - Sure
 - Wild dog
 - Attain
 - Assert
- DOWN**
- Belgian port
 - Vociferous
 - Labour
 - Depart
 - Stable
 - Horseman
 - Flower
 - Football
 - Lying down
 - Far-off
 - Caterpillar
 - Cut

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Rome-ma, 523191, Baisam, Salah Eddin, 272315; Shu'at, Shu'at Road, 810108; Dar Aladwa, Herod's Gate, 282058; Tel Aviv: Lev Ha'ir, 69 Ahad Ha'am, 612862; Kupat Holim, Maccabi, 7 Hahshalah, 546237/6, ext. 43; Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Feingold, 47 Rothschild, Kfar Sava; Netanya: Hamagen, 13 Sderot Weizmann, 2285; Haifa: Kupat Eliezer, 6 Kikar Mayerhoff, 511707.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (pediatrics), Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, obstetrics, surgery, ophthalmology, E.N.T.), Hadassah Scopus (orthopedics), Tel Aviv: Rokeh (pediatrics), Ichilov (internal, surgery), Netanya: Laniado

POLICE 100

Dial 100 in most parts of the country. In Tiberias dial 924444, Kiryat Shmona 4444.

FIRE 102

In emergencies dial 102. Otherwise, number of your local station is in the front of the phone directory.

FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom

In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of the country. In addition:

Ashdod 41333 Ashkelon 23333 Bat Yam 951111 Beersheva 747171 Carmiel 988555 Dan Region 781111 Eilat 7233 Hadera 22333 Haifa 512233 Hatzor 36333 Holon 823133

Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.

"Ezer" — Emotional First Aid. Tel. Jerusalem 227171, Tel Aviv 261111 (children/youth) 03-261113, Haifa 672222, Beersheva 418111, Netanya 36316.

Sape Crisla Centre (24 hours), for help call Tel Aviv 246919, Jerusalem — 246554, and Haifa 362611.

Jerusalem Institute for Drug Problems. Tel. 623628, 623502, 14 Beitlehem Rd. The National Poison Control Centre at Rambam Hospital, phone (04) 829205, for emergency calls, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

Kupat Holim Information Centre Tel. 03-433300, 433600 Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

THE JERUSALEM POST
HANUKKA
TOY FUND

Ministry of Communications

Ministry of Communications

Engineering and Licensing Dept.

Use of "Saucer" Antennas for Receiving Satellite Television Broadcasts

Because of great public interest in the use of "saucer" antennas for receiving satellite television broadcasts, we wish to clarify the permitted and prohibited aspects of the matter:

- The Ministry of Communications permits the installation and use of an antenna (parabolic saucer) of a maximum diameter of 2.44 metres which causes no interference with other receivers. Such permission does not free the installer of the need to obtain the requisite authorization in accordance with the Planning and Construction Law.
- The antenna is intended for reception of television programmes broadcast for direct public reception. The antenna may not be used for reception of broadcasts aimed at commercial bodies, broadcasting stations and the like.
- Use of the antenna is restricted to tenants in the vicinity of the building housing the antenna, with no possibility of transfer to the adjacent building.
- The antenna is to be used for reception only and not for commercial or other purposes.

Any deviation from the above conditions except where express permission for such deviation has been granted, will be considered an offense against the Wireless Telegraph Ordinance (amended version), 1972. Unauthorized use of "saucer" antennas is injurious to the communications system and to Israel's international commitments.

MARKET PLACE

JEAN DECLERY

All that glitters

The price of gold, currently around \$400 an ounce, is likely to rise to \$440 before the end of 1987, most analysts in London agree, with some saying it could go to \$500 or higher.

The price is likely to rise on the continuing weakness of the dollar, a resurgence of world inflation, particularly if oil prices continue to firm, the popularity of gold coins and unrest in South Africa, which is the main supplier of gold to the world.

At brokers James Capel, analyst Julian Baring says the threat of a trade war between the European Community and the U.S. would also be good for gold.

An analyst at Savory Milne, Richard Lake, holds that in 1987 the price could reach \$500 an ounce for the first time since 1983, while brokers Laurence Prust do not rule out a speculative burst above \$500.

Laurence Prust justifies his optimistic forecast on the grounds that uncertainty about the future trend of stock markets, differences among the leading five non-communist industrialized nations on economic policy and signs of renewed inflation could combine to push gold higher. But they also note that supplies of gold will be plentiful in 1987.

Laurence Prust says that in 1986 world production of gold increased by 47 metric tons to total 1,260 tons. Output during 1987 could total 1,340 tons, because any reduction of output in South Africa would be more than matched by increased mining in North America, Latin America and in Australia.

In 1986, communist countries were believed to have sold 325 tons of gold, compared with 210 tons in 1985. Although sales by the Soviet Union have slowed down in recent months, possibly because of reduced need for foreign exchange to buy grain, the domestic grain harvest was better, China has increased sales to strengthen foreign currency reserves. Laurence Prust estimates sales by China at around 100 tons in 1986.

In addition, world demand last year was exceptionally heavy because Japan bought more than 220 tons of gold to strike 10 million coins commemorating the 60th year of the reign of Emperor Hirohito.

Several other countries also began striking coins in response to a widespread boycott of South African kruggerands. The U.S. launched the Eagle coin, Australia the Nugget and Luxembourg the Golden Lion. In 1986, coins accounted for a total of some 325 tons of gold, compared with 106 tons in 1985. But the tonnage for coins is expected to fall in 1987.

Demand from goldsmiths fell by 3 per cent in 1986 to 870 tons, compared with 896 tons in 1985. From Italian goldsmiths, the drop was more than 10 per cent, and demand from the U.S. was also well down. Little recovery from this sector is expected in 1987 given the higher price of gold and the worsening outlook for growth of the world economy.

Overall, taking account of purchases and sales by central banks and other state bodies, the outlook is that unless there is again unusually high demand from Japan or other countries, the surplus of gold available could rise to some 270 tons in 1987, compared with 75 tons in 1986 and 55 tons in 1985. An even bigger surplus of supply is expected in 1988.

But the market price will depend greatly on speculative sentiment. Consequently Laurence Prust warns against an unduly bullish view of the medium-term price of gold. (AFP)

Citrus executives seek to stop new Gaza plant

Citrus industry executives have asked the authorities to prevent the building of an additional citrus processing plant in Gaza, saying the market did not need additional productive capacity, the Industry and Trade Ministry said yesterday.

Industry leaders said Israel already had a surplus of production capacity for citrus products. The existing plants can produce over one million tons of citrus fruit, but due to a shortage of citrus fruit, only 700,000 tons are produced annually. The drop in citrus concentrate prices has also hurt the industry, the industry executives said.

The industrialists were responding to the initiative of a group of Gaza Strip entrepreneurs to build such a plant in the area.

Biggest shopping centre in Israel Canit to build capital mall

By DAVID ROSENBERG
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Canit Ltd., which owns and manages the innovative Ramat Gan Canion, yesterday won a hotly contested tender to build a huge shopping complex in southern Jerusalem.

General Manager Sar-Shalom Shiran said last night that Canit had outbid four other developers with an offer of \$8 million to lease 55 dunams for 98 years in the capital's Manhattan area.

Canit will now go ahead with plans to build a shopping centre of between 25,000 and 40,000 square metres - Israel's largest - at a cost of roughly \$40 m. The size will depend on approval from the Jerusalem municipality.

Rival bidders for the project were the Azorim Construction Co. unit of C.I.A. Industries Ltd.; Koor Industries Ltd.; Yuval Gad Ltd. unit; a newly formed concern, Melissa; and a joint Israeli-foreign venture.

A spokesman from the Israel Lands Administration, which auctioned the rights to the site, was unavailable last night. However, Shiran said he believed Canit won the bidding both because it offered a higher price for the property and

because of its experience in the Ramat Gan shopping complex.

"For Jerusalem, for such a big project, it was important to have a company with experience, and we were the only ones to offer it," he said.

He said ideally Canit would like to build a 40,000 square metre centre that would incorporate three "anchor" stores, a cinema complex containing four or five theatres and 180 smaller stores. Anchors are large stores, usually department stores belonging to well-known chains, which are used to draw in customers to the mall. Shiran said the Jerusalem mall would probably have two department stores and a supermarket.

If municipal authorities approve only a 25,000 square metre shopping centre, it will contain only 100 smaller stores, as well as the anchors and cinema complex.

Shiran said he believed the capital was capable of providing a big enough market for the larger plan. Based on the \$100 m. estimated turnover for merchants at the 20,000-square-foot Ramat Gan Canion, this year, he estimated Jerusalem's mall could have annual sales of \$150 m., although he said that was

a very rough estimate.

"We are ready to go to 40,000," he said.

Shiran said it would take between four and four-and-a-half years to complete the project, with Canit acting both as prime contractor and manager of the completed mall. Like the Ramat Gan Canion, the space in Jerusalem's mall will be leased, with merchants selected on their ability to maintain high sales in comparison with other stores in the mall and industry standards, and their contribution to creating the right mix of shopping. The common practice in Israel is to sell space.

Counting public amenities and parking, the cost of the total package should come to between \$55 m. and \$60 m., Shiran said. In addition, Canit may win rights to build other parts of the Manhattan area.

Shiran said financing for the project had not been fully worked out, but that it would include to a large extent loans from abroad.

The plan for the Manhattan area, dubbed the "Year 2000" project, were approved by the municipality earlier this week and are now awaiting the go-ahead from the Interior Ministry.

U.S. to make ruling on dumping charges today

By KEN SCHACHTER
For The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV - A U.S. Commerce Department panel is expected to announce a decision today in an anti-dumping case that could send ripples through Israel's export industry.

The case involves the Middle East Tube Co., a Haifa-based subsidiary of Koor Industries Ltd. Six months ago, two U.S. companies, Lonestar and CF&I Steel, approached the Commerce Department and charged Metco with selling oil-drilling pipe below the market price.

The companies also alleged that the Israeli government subsidizes exports and asked that an anti-dumping fee and a countervailing duty be placed on Metco oil-drilling pipe exported to the U.S.

The case's impact on other Israeli exporters is likely to hinge on whether the Commerce Department rules that Israel's insurance programme for exporters amounts to a subsidy.

Koor economist Yael Ephron said that unlike exporters in other countries, Israeli exporters are not allowed to take out commercial insurance to protect them from fluctuations in and differences between the value of the shekel and other currencies.

Instead, the government runs the programme which offers the same protection and it is used by almost all Israeli exporters. In 1985, Israeli exporters gained about 3 per cent through the programme.

"If they decide [the insurance programme] is a subsidy," Ephron said, "then other U.S. companies will be encouraged to sue Israeli companies."

The case, which began six months ago, is the fifth anti-dumping case against Israel in the last three years. Other others involved potash, roses, other flowers and phosphoric acid.

Ephron said it is indicative of the protectionist mood in Washington and flies in the face of the year-old Free Trade Area agreement, which lowers trade barriers between the U.S. and Israel.

"The U.S. government encourages companies to sue for countervailing duties and anti-dumping fees," she said. "Usually, when someone is sued for those reasons, the Commerce Department suggests that they accept a Voluntary Restriction Agreement (VRA)."

The VRA assigns a quota, usually lower than current export levels. Such an arrangement - which Ephron sees as a form of "blackmail" - generally allows a company to dodge the anti-dumping fee and countervailing duty.

"The U.S. has to deal with a gaping balance-of-payments deficit," Ephron said, "but these tactics are not in the vein of the FTA."

Based on the request for the anti-dumping fee and countervailing duty, Koor will try to prove that the pipe was sold at a fair price; the government did not subsidize the export, and the market did not suffer as a result.

Ephron said U.S. law holds that dumping takes place if a company fails to recover the cost of the product, at least 10 per cent for sales and administration, and at least 8 per cent for profit.

She said the figures are unrealistic from an Israeli perspective in view of the oil glut that has cut drilling.

"In a recession, in Israel, nobody

has an 8 per cent profit," she said.

A November 1984 law makes it easier for U.S. companies to sustain the claim of material injury in the market.

The law allows a Department of Commerce panel to look at not only Metco, but also at companies from other countries and to weigh their cumulative effect in depressing the price of oil-drilling pipe.

Israel accounts for about 1 per cent of U.S. imports of oil-drilling pipe, but Canada accounts for about 7 per cent.

Today's hearing will yield a decision on whether Metco is to face anti-dumping fees and countervailing duties. If so, Koor, a week later, will have a chance to avoid the payments if it can prove that no material injury was caused.

The final decision of the International Trade Commission will be made on February 7.



Aharon Meir was appointed director of Osem Food Industries Ltd. at a meeting of the company's board of directors on Monday. Yair Weill was appointed acting chairman. Meir had been chairman of United Mizrahi Bank until last June. (Israel Sun)

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:	98.46 +0.06%	Turnovers:	NIS 10,177,500	4.25% fully-linked	Stable/falls to 1%
General Share Index	100.61 -0.46%	Shares - total	NIS 1,911,500	80% linked	Mixed to 0.5%
Non-Bank Index	98.64 +0.33%	Arrangement	NIS 285,900	Double-linked	Mixed to 3%
Insurance	98.27 -1.25%	Non-bank	NIS 5,677,000	Debt-linked	Falls to 0.5%
Commerce, Services	101.14 -0.96%	Bonds - total	NIS 3,958,100	Admon	Mixed to 0.5%
Real Estate	101.07 -0.18%	Index-linked	NIS 1,719,000	Rimon	Generally rises to 0.5%
Industrials	100.48 -0.39%	Dollar-linked	NIS 19,511,300	Gilboa	
Textiles	100.74 -0.81%	Treasury Bills		For Curr.	Falls slightly
Metals	100.82 -0.45%			denominated	
Electronics	102.51 +0.30%			Treasury Bills	
Chemicals	98.16 -0.34%			(annual yield)	21.30-22.00%
Industrial Invest.	100.33 -0.52%	Share Movements:			
Investment Cos.	100.69 -0.39%	Advances	63 (128)		
General Bond Index	100.04 +0.03%	of which 5% +	12 (23)		
Index-linked Bonds	100.18 +0.03%	"buyers only"	0 (0)		
Fully-linked	100.02 +0.02%	Declines	170 (128)		
Partially-linked	100.44 +0.08%	of which 5% +	21 (25)		
Dollar-linked Bonds	99.11 +0.07%	"sellers only"	5 (1)		
Short-term 0-2 yrs	100.27 0.00%	Unchanged	131 (128)		
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	100.14 +0.09%	Trading Held	24 (33)		
Long-term 5+ yrs	99.93 -0.04%	Bond Market Trends:			
		Index-linked:			
		3% Fully-linked	Rises to 1%		

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	% '000/MS change						
				Trade & Services					
Super Izor	1468	3942	-						
Meir Ezra	7860	467	-						
Delek r.	3610	3944	-2.8						
Lighterage	14200	51	-						
Cold Storage	1567	s.o.1	-5.0						
Dan Hotels	1550	35	-0.1						
Yarden Hotel	2620	140	-1.9						
Hilon 1	23201	22	-6.1						
Team 1	1085	1059	-0.5						
				Real Estate, Building and Agriculture					
Azorim	864	10036	-0.8						
Elion	559	6918	-						
Africa Isr. 0.1	38500	179	+0.8						
Dankner	4810	895	+2.9						
Prop. & Bldg.	3720	1660	-0.9						
Bayseide 0.1	4940	1070	-						
ILDC r.	62700	101	-						
Risco r.	7898	83	-1.3						
Mehadrin	7920	328	-1.0						
Hadarim	1360	1713	-0.3						
				Industrials					
Dubek b	4350	1809	-3.3						
Pr-Ze 1	no trading								
Sunfront	12000	82	-1.6						
Elite	17250	491	+0.9						
Adger	580	1464	-0.7						
Argaman r.	17500	100	-1.3						
Delta G 1	3110	573	-2.5						
Maquette 1	4860	331	-7.6						
Eagle 1	18900	288	+3.3						
Poleg	3950	638	-						
Schoellerle	14001	170	+1.7						
Rogosen	2580	1072	+8.3						
Ordon 0.1 r.	6893	132	-0.1						
Is. Can Co. 1	2854	3197	-0.7						
Zion Cable	2300	435	-1.0						
Packer Steel	14000	332	+2.4						
Elbit	404000	21	+2.0						
				Elion					
								292000	10
								31500	33
								1000	761
								Spectronic 1	2198
								T.A. 1-1	4989
								Ackenstein 1	910
								Agan 5	16058
								Alliance	2290
								Exeter	2746
								Fertilisers	6850
								Haifa Chem.	451
								Teva Sr.	6970
								Dowd Sr.	5517
								Petrochem.	530
								Neca Chem.	6680
								Frutaron	14300
								Hadega Paper	277500
								Central Trade	8420
								Koor p.	6960000
								Clal Inds.	1577
				Investment Companies					
IDB Berr	5299	1889	-						
Ellev	3786	1960	-						
Rik 1	764		-						
Gahleit	1440	100	+6.3						
Israel Corp. 1	12730	936	-						
Wolfson 1 r.	113000	-	-						
Hapoalim Inv.	6835	1060	-0.1						
Discount Invest.	3295	3184	-						
Mizrahi Invest.	22000	50	-						
Clal 10	939	5837	-1.3						
Landeco 0.1	3850	77	+4.6						
Parne 0.1	10499	29	-						
				Oil Exploration					
Paz Oil Exp.	23000	227	+3.8						
J.O.E.L.	4200	1658	-						
				Abbreviations:					
				s.o. sellers only					
				b buyers only					
				r registered					

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Minus Peretz

THE GOOD news yesterday was that Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz's resignation as interior minister took effect yet the sky did not fall in.

One possible explanation for this seemingly supernatural occurrence is, of course, that the nation was saved only temporarily, pending the emergence of an "acceptable" solution to the "problem" posed by Reform convert Shoshana Miller—acceptable, that is, to the Orthodox establishment. In the meantime, while work towards such a solution goes on, the duties of the interior minister will be discharged by Ronnie Milo, a deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office.

One duty Mr. Milo will not presumably be discharging is the issuance to Ms. Miller of an ID card in which her "national group" will be recorded as Jewish, which is how the High Court of Justice ruled it must be recorded.

A man from Mars, landing at Ben-Gurion Airport today, might rightly wonder: why should one Mr. Miller be considered a threat to the stability of the country's government? The answer is that it is nothing of the kind. The exodus of even the entire 12-deputy strong religious party contingent from the coalition need not cause so much as a ripple, politically. Involvement to such leverage by the religious parties was originally thought to be one of the biggest advantages of the "national unity" government.

Unfortunately, both the Likud and the Alignment—the Alignment only a little less than the Likud—have kept ordering their priorities in terms of the future prospects of support by the religious parties.

That must have been the reason for the strange bipartisan silence in response to Rabbi Peretz's public vilification on Monday of the U.S. Reform movement as the greatest disaster to have befallen the Jewish people in our time. In the eyes of the Shas leader, to recognize Reform conversions, even for the purpose of the civil law, is to legitimize and condone Reform itself, which he views as the agent of assimilation and conversion out of Judaism.

It is not necessary to absolve U.S. Reform of all fault in order to reject this picture of it as an ignorant, if not malicious, distortion.

Rabbi Peretz should have been called to order immediately after sounding his diatribe. The fact that this leader of an ultra-Orthodox offspring of the anti-Zionist Agudat Yisrael was allowed to almost literally spit on the graves of great Zionist leaders like Rabbis Stephen Wise and Abba Hillel Silver, without a remonstrance from fellow ministers, is an alarming sign of the times.

On one point, however, Rabbi Peretz is right. The debate about Ms. Miller's ID card is a debate on Israel's Jewish character.

For him, and those who believe as he does, Jewish means "according to halacha" as interpreted by its rabbis, and the more extremely Orthodox the better. But that is not what the term Jewish suggested to most of Israel's founding fathers, and mothers. It is a gross distortion of the Declaration of Independence to identify the Jewishness of the Jewish state with the Jewishness of the one-time Jewish ghetto.

The only genuine solution to Ms. Miller's ID card "crisis" must rest squarely on the premise, not granted by Israel's Orthodox rabbis, that Jews in this country have no less a right to religious freedom than the non-Jews. That is why all the "solutions" so far proposed—the elimination of the "national group" category from ID cards, or the setting up of an all-rabbi court in the U.S. to validate conversions halachically, or passage of the "Who's a Jew" amendment to the Law of Return—are either irrelevant, or doomed to failure.

Nuance and substance

THE ROTATION of the Foreign Ministry from the Likud to the Alignment has inevitably resulted in a shift of emphasis in the presentation of Israel's policy abroad.

Inevitably, for despite the outwardly successful papering-over of the differences in political orientation between the two major parties, these differences remain, and they are not confined to matters of style. In the Likud's book, peace cannot be based on a territorial compromise with Jordan, nor on the establishment of a Palestinian state which could not fail to be the state of the terrorist PLO and a springboard for aggression against Israel.

It was thus natural for Yitzhak Shamir, as foreign minister, to make sure that *hasbara* abroad should focus on exposing the PLO's original aim, set out in the two versions of its Palestinian Covenant, of destroying Israel.

By the same token it is only natural that, under Shimon Peres, the Foreign Ministry should try to accentuate not so much the negative—notably the Palestinian enemy's nefarious character—as the positive, which is Israel's declared quest of peace by negotiations, even with the help of an international forum, and its desire for reconciliation with the Palestinian people, whose legitimate rights it acknowledges. Mr. Shamir, now premier, could not very well contend that these principles are not already enshrined in Israel's foreign policy.

Instead, he—as well as other Likud, and right-of-Likud, spokesmen—have fastened on the decision taken by the ministry's new director-general for foreign affairs, Yossi Beilin, to stop disseminating annotated copies of the PLO Covenant. That decision is indeed questionable.

Dr. Beilin has justified it on the ground that Israel should not be giving free publicity to the PLO and its policies. But it should, so long as that organization remains wedded to its terrorist and political manifesto—while keeping it under wraps for fear that it might create a bad impression in the West.

It is entirely true, of course, as Dr. Beilin argues, that Syria poses a far graver military threat to Israel today than does the PLO. There is perhaps not much need for *hasbara* to elaborate that point. But it is the PLO that is today putting forward what strikes even well-disposed people abroad as a plausible case for shared sovereignty over Palestine.

The PLO Covenant remains Israel's best answer to PLO propaganda.

POSTSCRIPTS

P.S. IF YOUR child is bored with dolls that walk, talk and cry, try a "Breathalyzer"—a doll with bad breath.

The rubber horrors, manufactured in Sunnyvale, California and selling for \$5 apiece, have been named: Mackerel Mouth, Dogbreath, Morning Mouth and Victor Vomit, and their fetid scent is obtained by pressing their stomachs.

The maker's publicity claims: "If Victor breathes on you, you'll want to vomit too."

P.S. NATURE-LOVING Sweden is to introduce a national battery-recycling scheme to help to clean up the environment. The scheme aims to give householders money to encourage them return spent batteries so that potentially damaging chemicals can be disposed of safely.

Sweden's Nature Conservancy Council estimates that more than six tonnes of mercury and 15-20 tonnes of cadmium leak into the environment from discarded batteries.

Broken myth of Arab oil power

S. Fred Singer

IN 1986, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries entered its second quarter-century. But after the period 1973-85 when its power, real or imagined, was much feared, the outlook for Opec suddenly became dubious. Three events, closely connected, dominated 1986.

The price of oil collapsed from nearly \$30 a barrel to less than \$10, finally hovering around \$15.

After 25 years as Saudi oil minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani was fired. His pronouncements, eagerly followed by millions around the world, had become the symbol of Arab oil power.

The unquestioned supremacy of Saudi Arabia within Opec was challenged, with Iran's radical Islamic government confronting Riyadh's decisions on oil output and oil prices with political and military threats.

The upheavals of 1986 go back to 1979, the year when oil prices began to shoot up again after a slight decline during 1974-78. Analysis shows that this price level of about \$12 had been close to optimal for Saudi Arabia, producing a maximum stream of long-term profits.

After the fall of the Shah in late 1978, however, Iran's oil production suddenly declined; panic developed among oil-consuming countries concerned about the future supply of oil.

Much of the concern was undoubtedly caused by pronouncements from Washington about an impending oil crisis. Starting with his famous energy message of March 1977, President Jimmy Carter referred to a coming oil shortage as the "moral equivalent of war."

Backed by a later-discredited CIA report and some equally dubious academic studies from prestigious universities, he concluded that by 1983, oil demand would exceed supply.

Economists of course recognize that such a situation cannot occur: Demand must always balance supply; a shortfall would simply raise the price. But such a price increase must lower the demand, prompt conservation and encourage switching to fuels other than oil. In addition, the higher price would bring forth more energy supplies and speed up the search for oil around the world.

Indeed, as the price tripled in 1979-80, going from \$12 to \$36 a barrel, this is precisely what happened. For example, coal, natural gas and nuclear energy replaced oil in many heat and steam applications and in the generation of electricity.

The fuel efficiency of new cars doubled or even tripled, compared with values in the 1960s.

AT THIS POINT, Saudi Arabia made the first of several strategic errors. It permitted the oil price to

explode, and even helped it along. It was blinded by greatly increased short-term profits and misled by the predictions of most economists about even higher future prices.

As late as 1982, Yamani (and the U.S. Department of Energy) argued that the slump in demand represented only a temporary phenomenon, the result of a recession. In fact, major structural changes in energy use were taking place, with great spurts in investments in coal, nuclear and hydro-electric power plants. Nuclear plants alone have "backed out" about six million barrels of oil use per day (mbd), more than 10 per cent of world oil consumption.

Meanwhile, as demand for Opec oil was dropping fast, Yamani was explaining how Opec planned to increase the price, at 1 or 2 per cent a year above inflation—thus stimulating even more conservation investments.

This misconception led to a second major error: the Saudi decision to cut its production in order to defend the high price. The magnitude of the act was astounding, from over 10 mbd down to eventually 2.5 mbd.

Of course, revenues fell accordingly, and even further after March 1983, when Opec reduced the official price, for the first time ever, to \$29.

Riyadh bore the major burden of revenue reductions, while keeping the price high for other oil producers both inside and outside of Opec. But as annual deficits approached \$20 billion, and as accumulated financial reserves declined by 10 to 15 per cent a year, something had to be done to save Saudi Arabia's finances.

Prof. Elihu Kanovsky of Bar-Ilan University, in his pioneering analyses of economic events in Arab oil-producing countries, recognized early on that budgets were exceeding revenues and that attempts to reduce budgets could lead to internal political problems in these countries. By then, of course, Opec members and producers such as Mexico, as well as the American states of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Alaska, had gotten used to high oil revenues and, like Saudi Arabia, were looking forward to even greater revenues.

THE BREAKPOINT came in mid-1985, when Riyadh decided on a price war to force other producers to share the cuts in production and revenues. Saudi Arabia no longer wanted to be the swing producer, but

rather a member of a cartel with agreed and enforced production quotas.

At first, Riyadh's plan seemed to work; its oil sales doubled by late 1985 and the price collapse followed soon after. There was surprise about the magnitude of the collapse, but by now Saudi production changes were no longer the dominant factor.

With global oil stockpiles in the billion-barrel range, decisions to dump supplies before the price fell could lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy—just as decisions to buy oil for stockpiles in 1979 had driven up the price.

In an interview in May 1986, Yamani blamed the U.S. for the price collapse and for all Opec's troubles, conveniently overlooking his own threats in 1985 to launch a price war unless Saudi Arabia were allowed a larger market share within Opec. Opec members were apparently willing to call the Saudi bluff, for after a short time Riyadh's price war fizzled out. Credit must be given here to Great Britain and to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who spoke out against joining the cartel and in favour of free markets.

By contrast, Norway's prime minister, Mrs. Gro Harlem Brundtland, was more than willing to play along and cut production in sympathy with Opec.

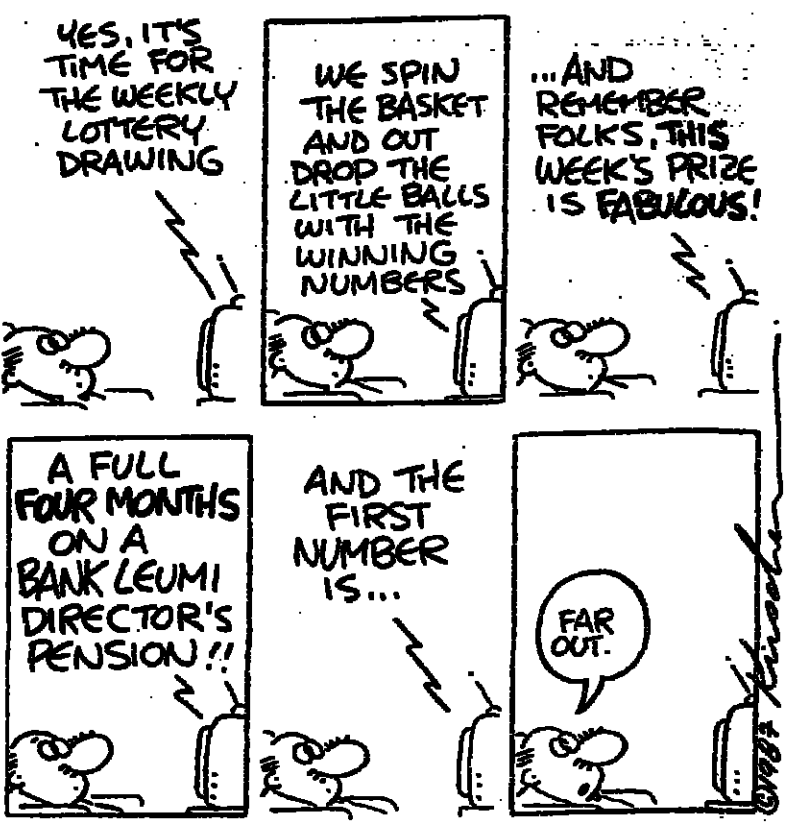
But the real reason for the collapse of the price war may have been opposition from Iran, coupled with political and military threats. By late '85, Riyadh was aware of U.S. efforts to establish its influence in Iran. And while the arms shipments were not enough to affect the Iranian war, the Saudis' readings of events may have made them nervous. In any case, by the fall of 1986, Yamani, as the architect of the price war, was out and "brotherly discussions" with Iran were in. Riyadh simply didn't have the stomach to apply the price war rigorously.

We still have to see whether the taste of the price war will be enough to keep Opec in line. The guessing is against it. Opec members will likely break cartel discipline and cheat, in order to get more revenue, counting on Iranian power to keep Riyadh from conducting further price wars.

AS TO THE future, we are in for a prolonged period of unstable prices, at least until the end of the present oil glut, i.e., until the generally lower oil prices increase the demand for oil and discourage the development of other energy sources, including high-priced oil. Within a decade or so, the increased demand will have used up Opec's excess-production capacity.

Consumer nations can do a great

Dry Bones



deal to stave off the time of an inevitable general increase in oil prices, perhaps even until the year 2000. The major tools are:

□ Deregulation and use of free markets to the maximum extent possible.

□ Oil conservation in its broadest sense, and especially the removal of obstacles to alternatives such as coal and nuclear power.

□ Demand-restraining consumption taxes on transportation fuels, to ensure that those who use highway systems pay the full cost, including the cost of national security that comes from reliance on imported oil.

□ Use of oil stockpiles, and if necessary also oil import fees, to stabilize prices to consumers. For example, buying oil when prices are low and selling when the price explodes (during an interruption) not only acts as a stabilizer, but transfers money from Opec to the treasuries of consuming nations.

A DECADE ago, in articles in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Foreign Policy*, I analysed three components of Arab oil power. It was evident even then that Arab oil embargoes never worked and could not work in future—except psychologically, upon those who believed in their efficacy. Arab oil producers, singly or in concert, could not raise the price to blackmail or punish the West without causing themselves great harm. (We have seen this happen since 1979, as a consequence of the unjustified price rise.) Finally, there was the issue of Arab financial power and its use to force the West to modify its foreign policy goals to meet Arab demands. As was not foreseen then, but be-

came evident later, even greater financial power is ephemeral.

I have speculated that world events would have turned out differently if Middle East oil had been under the control of a single strong nation, be it the Ottoman empire, or Egypt under Nasser, or the Shah of Iran. The West would have faced a formidable entity, with the resources, population and military machine of a world power.

In a lecture at the University of South Carolina in October 1981, I made a sombre appraisal of the future of the Gulf and of the beneficial use of its resources. I wrote in conclusion:

"The Saudis have made a major mistake [in oil pricing] from which they may not recover. In consequence, we may see some drastic changes soon in the governments of the Arabian kingdoms and sheikhdoms. There will be little personal suffering for those with bank accounts abroad. If Saudi rule collapses, Saudi princes may be found enriching life in Western cities from Athens to San Francisco, and Sheikh Yamani may become a lecturer at the Harvard Business School."

In September 1986, at the celebration of Harvard's 350th anniversary, Yamani delivered an apology of Saudi oil pricing decisions during the past decade. When asked in discussion about the process by which oil policy is made inside Saudi Arabia, he replied, "We play it by ear." Indeed.

Professor Singer, of George Mason University, Virginia, is a consultant to the Ministry of Energy. He was a former deputy assistant secretary of Interior in the U.S.

READERS' LETTERS

THE NEW ECONOMIC PLAN

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — A lot has already been said about the New Economic Plan "taking" from the weaker sections of the public, i.e. the poor, and "giving" to the rich. The government doesn't give to the rich, it simply takes a little less from those whose contribution to the economy is greatest, so that they earn and expand more. And the more they do, the more they will produce and employ; directly (in their factories) or indirectly (more consumption, more services, more construction, more recreation). This, not handouts by the government, will put more money into the pockets of the weaker sections.

The old way was more subsidies, allowances, points, or perks—handouts, in other words. Someone had to pay for these, the government. How? From taxes. The result was higher and higher taxes from less and less income, till it became self-defeating, reducing output, and

eventually taxes. So that all the government could do was to print more money. We all know and remember where this led to.

The New Economic Plan aims at getting away from this vicious circle, and increasing output by making it more worthwhile for those who can, and want to, and who stand most to gain by increased turnover, to do so. By making the cake bigger, the weaker ones will be left with more, not by making the cake smaller. That is what capitalism is all about. The carrot, not the stick.

There is no magic formula or edict to make the poor rich, and there are no free rides. Give us the tools, so that those who want to can use them themselves. The New Economic Plan is an opportunity to put these tools in everyone's hands. Grasp them. It may not be the best plan, but it is a start. Don't knock it if there is no alternative. Savyon.

J. FRANKL

THE CLEANING OF THE NATIVITY CHURCH

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — With reference to David Landau's article of December 29, "Nativity cleansing hangs on Israeli shuttle," I would like to state the following:

As the Custody of the Holy Land is neutral in the dispute between the Greeks and the Armenians regarding the cleaning of a certain area above the entrance to the Grotto of the Nativity, the Custody of the Holy Land did not back either of the two communities, and always aimed at a peaceful settlement of the dispute. Therefore, it cannot be said that "the Armenians, backed by the Latins, insist it should be left unchanged."

We are grateful to the Head of the Civil Administration, to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, to the Mayor of Bethlehem and to the goodwill of the Christian communities, that the cleaning was carried out peacefully on December 29.

FR. ALBERT ROCK, OFM
Representative of the Custody of the Holy Land in the Holy Places
Jerusalem.

CIVIL RIGHTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — The recent decision by Israel's Supreme Court concerning conversions to Judaism by Reform rabbis represents a welcome and long overdue victory for the civil rights movement in Israel and its unceasing struggle against religious coercion by the clerical establishment.

The decision is also a fitting observance of the 25th anniversary of that fateful demonstration in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Circle on November 20, 1961, which launched the League for the Abolition of Religious Coercion in Israel. I am proud of my role in sparking that event, and I would like to take this opportunity to send greetings to all the participants in that noble struggle that culminated with the recent court decision.

ALEX HERSHAFT
Washington, D.C.

VANUNU

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — The media are in danger of turning a traitor into a mistreated victim of imagined Israeli injustice.

Whether Vanunu willingly returned to Israel from Europe or was kidnapped should not be the prime issue. The safety of a people only 40 years removed from the Holocaust and still fighting for survival ought to rate the first concern. Unfortunately, in a world where old Nazis still find sanctuary abroad, neo-Nazis deny the historical reality of the slaughter of six million Jews, and terrorists are allowed to leave countries like Italy scot-free, Israelis sometimes have to assist the spineless with a bit of *hutzpa*. (Eichmann was not turned over to Israel by a South American thirst for justice.)

If Vanunu was traitor-napped, three cheers for Israel! Trial and sentencing should follow, bleeding hearts notwithstanding.

FRANK EIKLOR

Salem, Mass.

DANGEROUS RE-ROUTING

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — On October 23, my husband and I left for a tour to the Far East, arranged by Natour, a travel office with a good reputation. We took it for granted that an Israeli-organized tour agency would take the necessary steps to assure the safety and security of their clients.

According to advance confirmation, we were supposed to fly from Amsterdam direct to Delhi/India, passing over Russia. However, on boarding the plane, our tour guide informed us that, on account of a technical fault, we would be touching down at Rome and, after repair, continue the flight.

According to the route map supplied on the plane, the flight Rome-Delhi is routed over Syria and Saudi

Arabia. Our Natour tour leader did not see anything wrong about this, although we, 20 Israelis, pointed out to him that, if another fault was discovered en route and an emergency landing was necessary, it might have to be made in what for us was enemy territory. We were told that, if we did not wish to continue the flight, it would have to be at our own risk and at our own expense.

On our safe return home, we contacted Natour to complain about this complete lack of responsibility. But no one seems to see the point and, what's more, no one is willing to assume responsibility, shifting the blame from the airline to the travel agency and back again.

Haifa.

L. PINTER

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